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LD2702134489 [Editorial Report]

Shevardnadze in Iran, Iraq

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i 27 February that the exchange of messages between Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is a "turning point" that will lead to a further expansion of good relations between Iran and the Soviet Union despite the "ideological differences" between the two countries, IRNA reported. In earlier talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Shevardnadze stated that his "exceptional and historic" meeting with Khomeyni is a "strong basis" for the expansion and consolidation of bilateral relations, according to Tehran radio. Shevardnadze and Velayati agreed to sign a political protocol to regularize political contacts between the two countries, the radio noted, and they also decided to compile a program for the expansion of scientific and cultural ties.

Reporting on Khomeyni's 26 February meeting with Shevardnadze in Jamaran, Tehran radio noted that Khomeyni asked his guest to tell Gorbachev that the "main point" of Khomeyni's message to the Soviet leader in January was to open a "window" to the "afterlife." Khomeyni said he was seeking to open a "wider horizon" to the Soviets and he expressed hope that Gorbachev will make "efforts" in the spiritual field. On political issues, Khomeyni welcomed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and stressed "the expansion of strong relations in all dimensions against Western plots."

The radio also broadcast Shevardnadze's remarks at the meeting in which he conveyed Gorbachev's reply to Khomeyni's letter. The Soviet visitor stressed the USSR's belief that relations between the two countries are entering a "new phase" of cooperation, adding that while the Soviet leadership did not agree with "certain points" in Khomeyni's letter, this is "not important." The Soviet Union wants to cooperate with Iran in strengthening peace in the Middle East and in finding a "just solution" for the Afghan conflict, he said. The USSR also wants to expand economic cooperation and promote contacts between people of both countries, including members of the clergy. In this regard, Muslim ulema in the USSR will take up Khomeyni's invitation for a visit to Qom, he noted.

A TASS report on the meeting cited Shevardnadze's remark that the USSR intends to base relations with Iran on the principles of complete equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual benefit. Khomeyni expressed agreement with "a number" of the points contained in Gorbachev's reply message, TASS said, and he displayed "great interest" in what Shevardnadze said to him.

A TEHRAN TIMES commentary cited by IRNA stated that the success or failure of Shevardnadze's visit would depend on the contents of the message from Gorbachev, adding that the West's "hostile response" to Iran over "The Satanic Verses" has opened "all doors" for the expansion of Iranian-Soviet ties. The paper also disclosed that "significant arms dealings" are currently being discussed between Iran and the USSR. A related Tehran radio commentary viewed the visit as an "important step" in the expansion of relations, and noted that Soviet-Iranian differences of opinion over Afghanistan have "diminished."

Regarding Shevardnadze's earlier visit to Iraq, INA reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received the Soviet foreign minister in Basra 24 February, and both sides agreed to continue "active contacts." Shevardnadze delivered a message from Gorbachev on the "close relations between the two friendly countries" and expressed "appreciation" for Iraq's "principled" positions in the Iran-Iraq negotiations, INA said. The Soviet visitor told journalists after the meeting that the USSR and Iraq will form joint committees of experts to identify areas of bilateral cooperation, the agency added.

In remarks broadcast by Moscow radio, Shevardnadze disclosed that Gorbachev's message to Saddam Husayn expressed the USSR's readiness to render "support and assistance" to the UN secretary general in the Iran-Iraq talks. Shevardnadze also noted the "proximity" of Soviet and Iraqi positions on "key issues" of contemporary world politics, and he said the two countries "fully coincided" in their assessment of the need to intensify efforts to hold an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. TASS stated that the talks with Saddam Husayn inspire confidence in a "stable and reliable future" for Soviet-Iraqi relations.

The Iraqi RCC and Ba'th Party leadership subsequently issued a statement expressing "satisfaction" with the outcome of Shevardnadze's visit, which will deepen the relations between the two countries, INA reported.

Iran

The Majlis passed the first reading of a bill to break diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom and will give priority consideration to the bill in its next session on 28 February, IRNA reported. The Council of Guardians will be on hand to immediately rule on the bill, the agency noted.

In a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged Western governments to say whether they support the contents of "The Satanic Verses" so that Muslims will know whether such governments are "participants in abusing the prophet." Muslims believe that Western governments

have been "accomplices" in writing and publishing the book, Rafsanjani said, adding that every Muslim may "carry out his duty" and this will have "nothing to do with the Islamic Republic."

Rafsanjani also stated that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent message to the ulema must be the "main axis of our future," but he stressed that nobody should try to take advantage of it in the interest of their group. Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri likewise lauded the message in a letter to Khomeyni broadcast by Tehran radio, expressing hope it will revitalize the revolutionary forces in Iran. Montazeri suggested that Khomeyni appoint a board of "combative" and "sincere" individuals who are "not under the influence of any particular trend" to inspect and scrutinize the work of judicial and governmental bodies.

Support for Khomeyni's message was also expressed by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who told his cabinet that it emphasized the need to "return more strongly to those moves which strengthen social justice," IRNA noted. Teachers and students at the seminaries in Qom marched in support of Khomeyni's message, calling on those in charge of the mass media to remove the influence of the "hireling liberals," according to Tehran radio.

Iraq

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun stated that Iraq "strongly objects" to Ayatollah Khomeyni's death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie, Radio Monte Carlo reported. He also denied Khomeyni's right to speak on behalf of the entire Islamic world.

Lebanon

Rushdie/Hostages Linkage—An anonymous caller told AFP 26 February that an "emergency meeting" in Beirut has set a target date of 15 March by which to carry out the death threat against Salman Rushdie. The caller also stated that groups holding foreign hostages in Lebanon have decided to "freeze" any plans to release their captives because of the Rushdie affair, stressing that the hostages issue is now linked to international reactions over "The Satanic Verses." The fate of the hostages in Lebanon awaits a decision of Imam Khomeyni and of the "free Muslims" in the world, the caller said. Hizballah had earlier announced its intention to do everything possible to carry out Khomeyni's death sentence against Rushdie, according to AFP.

Crossing Point—Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the port crossing point between East and West Beirut was opened to all citizens and all types of vehicles 27 February in accordance with an order by General Michel 'Awn, the prime minister in East Beirut.

Israel

Tabah Agreement—Israel and Egypt signed three agreements in Tabah 26 February pertaining to the Israeli withdrawal from the area, the purchase of the hotel and tourist village, and the entry of tourists into the area, MENA announced. Jerusalem radio said the new border demarcation will be implemented on 15 March, by which date all compensation must be paid by Egypt. The Israeli Inner Cabinet approved the Tabah agreement in its session the same day, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that Ari'el Sharon was the only minister who voted against. Sharon called the agreement a "total surrender" that will have "grave consequences." Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed "regret" over the loss of Tabah, the radio said, and he contended Israel would have been able to retain the area if it had opted for conciliation rather than arbitration.

Territories—An IDF sergeant was killed in the Nabulus casbah 24 February by a blow from a concrete block thrown from a rooftop, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF chief of staff warned that Arab rioters will pay a "heavy" price for any further attacks of this sort. Palestinian casualties in clashes with soldiers over the weekend included a 20-year-old youth who was shot dead 26 February and a 6-year-old girl who sustained severe injuries during an earlier incident, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

PLO Affairs

The Palestinians are ready to hold "direct or indirect" talks with Israel on condition that they are held under the aegis of the United Nations or the five permanent UN Security Council members, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in remarks reported by TASS 24 February. In contrast, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah made a speech to Palestinians in Syria in which he warned against holding separate separate bilateral negotiations with "the Zionist enemy," Damascus radio noted.

The Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that Eduard Shevardnadze has invited 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Moscow for talks aimed at achieving a comprehensive reconciliation between the PLO and Syria, MENA noted.

Egypt

Both superpowers should participate in resolving the Middle East problem, President Husni Mubarak declared in remarks reported by MENA. He said Egypt is seeking a compromise between the idea of holding an international conference and the idea of conducting direct negotiations.

Sudan

Armed Forces Ultimatum—The Armed Forces 20 February "memorandum" calling for an improvement in material and equipment supplies to the military and for widening the base of government in the country was broadcast by Omdurman National Unity radio 25 February. The memorandum pointed out that the Armed Forces have carried out their responsibilities under the 1985 Constitution despite the shortage of "combat resources" and reinforcements and despite the "unique" level of foreign support for the rebel movement. The memorandum called for the formation of a broad-based government with "balanced" policies and gave the government 1 week "to take the necessary decisions."

The Council of Ministers meeting 25 February approved the expansion of the base of government in the country and tasked Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi with making the necessary contacts, Omdurman National Unity radio reported. The approval received support from State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and the Democratic Unionist Party, but was accepted as an "exceptional phenomenon" by the prime minister's Ummah Party, according to MENA.

Southern Military Situation—The Anya Nya II group, which supports the government, warned it will shoot down "any aircraft, relief aircraft or not," that attempts to land in the SPLA-controlled areas of Ler or Adok, Khartoum National Unity radio reported. The group declared that the warning was issued because Red Cross aircraft transporting relief supplies are "working in favor of the rebel movement."

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech—The mujahidin have increased their "destructive hostile operations" on the highways and "encircled" the cities, President Najibullah disclosed in a 25 February speech to the Milli Shura broadcast by Kabul radio. Recalling Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov's talks with mujahidin representatives, he noted that some groups wanted to continue the talks and others "irresponsibly" rejected them, thus showing that the extremists merely seek a "monopoly of power" for themselves and to exclude the other groups. He went on to explain the reasons for the declaration of a state of emergency in the country and affirmed that the path to peace, compromise, and reconciliation remains open. Najibullah also criticized the United States and Pakistan for their attempts to set up a "stage-managed" shura for the mujahidin.

In a related development, a Foreign Ministry spokesman described the formation of the "so-called government of Afghan extremists" as a "blatant violation" of the UN Charter, the UN General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan, the Geneva Accords, and other internationally accepted norms and principles, Kabul radio reported.

Meanwhile, ulema and religious leaders appealed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for "immediate action" to "remove the obstacles" to the delivery of UN aid created by certain countries, according to Kabul radio.

Mujahidin Statements—Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government of Afghanistan, revealed that there are "strong contacts" between the mujahidin and government forces, according to remarks published by Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper. He added that Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar are "expected to fall within days" and expressed hope that Kabul will also fall "without bloodshed or the use of weapons." Mojaddedi also announced a general amnesty for those still working with the Kabul regime, provided their hands are "not tainted with the blood of the mujahidin," Islamabad radio reported.

An Afghan shura member cited by Islamabad radio revealed that the new government is preparing a "major attack" on Afghan cities, "especially Jalalabad, Qandahar, and Khowst."

Pakistan

An explosion near the British Council building in Islamabad 26 February killed a security guard and destroyed the building's guard room, Islamabad radio radio reported. The government had earlier "reminded" the public that demonstrations in the capital are banned, according to the radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Freedom of Action Given to West Bank Figures

JN2502200489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the PLO leadership recently agreed to give freedom of political action and participation in the decisionmaking on the peace process to a number of figures in the occupied territories, in addition to pursuing contacts with Israeli officials who recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-ITTIHAD that Palestinian leader Yasair 'Arafat is enthusiastic about supporting those who are called youthful leaders in the occupied territories and about giving them a chance to participate in leadership. These sources pointed out that among these figures are Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat and other academics, trade unionists, and journalists.

'Arafat Denies Readiness To Negotiate in Israel

JN2602130689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[Text] Tunis—Palestinian leader Yassir 'Arafat has denied that he told the Israeli press delegation that he met in Cairo the day before yesterday that he is ready to go to Israel and hold negotiations with Shamir.

'Arafat told AL-ITTIHAD that an Israeli journalist asked him: Why do you not go to Jerusalem? My answer was: "Jerusalem is my home, and I need no invitation. But do not forget that Sharon threatened to kill me and that the Israeli Government has made a decision to assassinate me and Palestinian cadres and leaders and issued instructions to the Mosad to carry out the operation."

REUTER cited Palestinian sources in Cairo as saying 'Arafat informed Israeli journalists of his readiness to visit Tel Aviv to talk to Shamir. However, news agencies did not say whether any Israeli newspaper published it.

'Arafat on Shevardnadze Visit, Israeli Talks

LD2602100189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0833 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 26 (KUNA)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat Sunday was quoted here as saying that indirect PLO-Israeli dialogue had already started and hailing the Soviets for willing to play an important and active role to push forward the Middle East peace process.

'Arafat told daily AL-WATAN, published today, that the meeting of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was not a coincedence.

He affirmed that the next few days will reveal that the Soviets are standing firm in supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, as well as practicing a dynamic role in pushing forward the indirect Palestinian-Israeli talks.

He added that the indirect talks between the PLO and Israel already began in Cairo during the past few days.

'Arafat noted that Shevardnadze has informed him that an agreement was reached between Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon to form an Arab five-man dialogue committee, to be joined by the PLO, to draw the main points of solving the Middle East problem. The Soviet Union will transfer the committee's views to Israel, and vice versa, 'Arafat elaborated.

The PLO chief underlined that the nine-man non-aligned committee which met in Geneva had supported the Palestinian initiatives, and agreed that in case Israel and the U.S. would not respond to those initiatives, the leaders of the non-aligned states would call for an emergency U.N. General Assembly meeting under the slogan of 'unity for the sake of peace'.

Yesterday, 'Arafat in a message to Japanese committee celebrating Palestinian declaration of independence said that the uprising will continue more fiercely, and will resist Israeli brutality.

He told the committee, that includes parliamentarians, politicians, and academicians, that Israel currently is committing a very oppressive and bloody policy against the Palestinians, as well as committing sacrilegous acts against the Islamic holy places and imposing severe punishments on the stone throwers.

He confirmed that the establishment of the Palestinian state is the result of the Palestinian struggle.

Najjab Elaborates on Talks

JN2502102189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Feb 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman Najjab has stated that during their meeting in Cairo, the Palestinian delegation, led by Yasir 'Arafat, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed bilateral relations and exchanged information, particularly on the PLO's efforts to boost Arab solidarity and the Palestinian peace offensive toward West Europe and the United States, despite the stumbling of dialogue with the latter.

He added that the talks also dealt with the efforts being exerted by the Palestinian leadership on the domestic Israeli front and this leadership's relations with the Israeli forces, which he termed as realistic.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Najjab described the 'Arafat-Shevardnadze meeting as a new step along the road of boosting Palestinian-Soviet relations, adding that bilateral coordination has attained an advanced level, thanks to the standing coordination committee formed by the two sides about 2 months ago.

Asked whether Shevardnadze will present a peace plan to resolve the Middle East question, Najjab said the Palestinian side was briefed on the Soviet official's ideas, which do not depart from Moscow's trend to activate and pool efforts for the sake of holding an international conference. He noted that the Soviet leadership takes into consideration the new developments that have taken place since the intensification of the Palestinian peace efforts and the PNC's recent political initiative in Algiers.

Najjab added that the Soviet Union continues to stress the importance of benefiting from the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council as well as the importance of holding a Security Council meeting on the ministerial level to expedite the convening of a preparatory committee for the international conference this year.

Regarding the possibility of a resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, Najjab said the PLO hopes that once this takes place it will lead to tangible progress in the Middle East peace process. He stressed that this issue is linked to the beginning of the peace process and an agreement on holding the international conference.

Envoy on USSR Efforts To Reconcile Syria, PLO
JN2702065289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who resumes his talks in Tehran today and who will meet for the second time with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, had informed PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during their meeting in Cairo last Wednesday about the USSR's determination to mediate between Syria and the PLO leadership.

Rafiq al-Natshah, Palestinian ambassador in Riyadh, has stated that PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi briefed Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal yesterday about the Soviet Union's efforts to reconcile Syria and the PLO. Al-Natshah said that these efforts will produce important results in the not too distant future.

'Arafat Accepts Invitation To Visit Poland
LD2602142989 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has received an official invitation to visit Poland from President Jaruzelski, chairman of the Polish State Council and first secretary of the Polish Communist Party.

The invitation was received during Abu 'Ammar's reception of the Polish ambassador to Tunisia, who handed Abu 'Ammar President Jaruzelski's message, which included the official invitation.

Brother Abu 'Ammar gratefully accepted the invitation to visit Poland. He also gave the Polish ambassador a verbal message to President Jaruzelski in which he expressed our Palestinian people's gratitude for the friendly stance adopted by Poland.

Hawatimah Rejects 'Arafat 'Economic Federation'
JN2402194489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has warned against the activities of the Palestinian right, which aim to implant the seeds of partitions in the Palestinian national ranks. In a popular rally held today in Al-Yarmuk Camp in Damascus on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the DFLP, he said: 'Arafat's call for an economic federation of Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon is rejected by the Palestinian people and has come because of pressures from Washington.

He added: 'Arafat's call for the economic federation and separate bilateral negotiations with the Zionist enemy exposes the Palestine question to great dangers.

Unified Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No 35
JN2602111489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories has issued Call No 35. This call supports the meetings and contacts that are taking place with the Israeli forces that oppose the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinan call said that meetings with some Israeli quarters should be based on clear political foundations such as exposing the occupation authorities' practises, opposing the perpetuation of the occupation, and agreeing to negotiations with the PLO within the framework of the international conference. In its call, the Unified National Leadership affirmed that the recent meeting between Faysal al-Husayni and Israeli figures in East Jerusalem is in line with these foundations.

Abu Sharif Meets Waldegrave in London 23 Feb
JN2402164789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, the political adviser to brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], met with William Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, in London yesterday.

In statements to journalists following the meeting, British Foreign Office sources said that during the meeting the latest developments of the Zionist-Arab conflict and the means to achieve peace in the region were discussed. The

sources added that they exchanged opinions on ideas to boost the peace process. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif once again explained the PLO's position in this regard.

It was reported that this was the fourth meeting to be held between Waldegrave and Bassam Abu Sharif since December 1988. It is worth mentioning that the British minister will begin on Tuesday a tour to the Middle East.

Appeals to President Bush

JN2602183089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's information adviser, has accused the Israeli forces under Generals Mitzna' and Shomron of launching an unprecedented terrorist campaign against the city of Nabulus. He said 4,800 citizens were arrested in the city and transferred to a detention camp in Huwwarah, south of Nabulus, in which hundreds of tents were set up for them.

Abu Sharif added that this serious escalation in the use of live bullets and mass arrests is aimed at torpedoing the efforts being exerted to find a political settlement in the Middle East.

The Palestinian official called on U.S. President George Bush and the U.S. Administration to interfere and put an end to these violations of Palestinian human rights.

Radio Warns Against 'Hirelings,' 'Deviationists'

JN2402184189 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Brother strugglers, our people in Palestine, some of the Zionist-American enemy's hirelings—a handful of deviationists—who have deviated from our people's consensus, have started to undermine confidence in the intifidah [uprising] by threatening some nationalist emblems with physical liquidation or setting fire to their property. These hirelings level such threats sometimes in the name of the popular and national committees and other times in the name of the Hamas movement.

However, our militant and patient people, who are afflicted with the usurper and treacherous enemy, know who stands behind these overt methods, which deceive no one.

Our people, beware of these renegades and agents. Let us join ranks and not give any agent the opportunity to infiltrate them. The revolutionary intifadah will continue to attain our people's aspirations of freedom and liberation from the barbaric, fascist Zionist onslaught.

More national cohesion and solidarity to deprive the agents of the opportunity to penetrate our ranks! Our people are lying in wait for these hirelings and their ilk. Our march and revolution will not be hampered by a handful of renegades and agents who will receive the punishment they deserve to serve as a lesson for all who think they can tamper with or harm our people's objectives and aspirations.

May God bless you, O our people. May God bless your steadfastness, patience, and struggle. God supports us, and victory is imminent. Let us proceed together to liberate the land and man.

Egypt

Mubarak Visits Tokyo for Hirohito Funeral

NC2402133889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak has stressed the importance of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East. In a statement to a French television correspondent in Tokyo, the president said that all countries support the convening of an international conference, except for Israel under the leadership of Prime Minister Shamir. [passage omitted]

The president met later with Indian President Venkataraman in his place of residence in Tokyo. Dr Butrus Ghali attended the meeting.

President Mubarak then attended a reception hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in honor of the heads of states and delegations taking part in the funeral of late Emperor Hirohito. President Mubarak participated in the funeral, which was attended by many world leaders, earlier this morning. He also met with King Husayn of Jordan at a luncheon at noon today.

His excellency had received IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus in the afternoon.

Receives UK's Howe

NC2502093989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 25 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe at his place of residence in Tokyo today. Howe had attended the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito's funeral.

Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting.

Dr Ghali stated that President Mubarak and Howe exchanged views on the Palestinian issue, the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East, and Egyptian diplomatic efforts to defend the Palestinian people's rights and promote the Middle East peace process. He added that they also exchanged views on some African issues.

Leaves Tokyo for Kuwait

NC2502153889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak left Tokyo for Kuwait this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Japan during which he participated in the funeral of late Emperor Hirohito.

Views Ties With Kuwait

NC2602211089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that his intensive talks with the Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the heir apparent, and Kuwaiti officials today dealt with the issue of Lebanon and the efforts to achieve Lebanese reconciliation and safeguard the Lebanese people's interests. The talks, President Mubarak added, also touched on the latest developments in the situation between Iraq and Iran and the possibility of working out a lasting peace between them.

President Mubarak said that the talks dealt with the relations and the various aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait. He added that he sensed a full response, understanding, and cooperation on various issues, including the continued financing of projects by Kuwaiti funds.

In his statement to Egyptian newsmen in Kuwait tonight, President Mubarak said that due to time, his talks with U.S. President George Bush in Tokyo dealt with general ideas and views. He then said that God willing, he will resume discussion with President Bush on various issues in detail during his upcoming visit to the United States.

On his upcoming visit to Belgium, President Mubarak said that Brussels is the EEC headquarters and a summit meeting will be held there soon. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the entire Arab nation to show interest in coordinating with the EEC.

On his meetings with French President Mitterrand, President Mubarak said: President Mitterrand briefed me on the outcome of his talks with Israeli officials and expressed hope that the Palestinian cause will soon move forward.

In his statements, President Mubarak alluded to his talks with the Japanese prime minister, who declared support for the international peace conference.

President Mubarak made these statements in his quarters in Al-Salam Palace as tonight's meetings ended. President Mubarak said the talks discussed African debts and the proposals made by the Kuwaiti Amir and French president Mitterrand to solve this issue. He said: We must influence the industrial creditor countries in order to solve the Third World debt problem. The creditors should realize that Africa represents the main market for industrial states' products, and they must solve the debt issue.

Returns From Kuwait

NC2702114989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned home at 1315 hours today from Kuwait at the conclusion of a tour which included visits to the UAE and Japan.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives on 'Lightning' Visit

NC2602071589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this morning from Tunis on a lightning visit to Egypt that will last a few hours. He was received at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC2602141989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this afternoon with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The two reviewed the developments of the situation in the region in light of the efforts to encourage the peace process.

'Arafat said after the meeting that the talks are within the framework of the continuing consultations at all levels between the PLO and the Egyptian Government. He added that they reviewed the efforts to encourage the peace process which includes the active role of the EEC, the 7-member Arab committee, the Soviets, and the 5-member committee which is scheduled to include the countries concerned with the conflict—Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Syria, and the PLO. This committee will hold its first meeting at the earliest possible opportunity. He stressed that the Palestinian issue is at the top of the agenda of various local, regional, and international conferences.

Attends Palestinian Conference

NC2602150089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—This morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian Culture Minister Faruq Husni attended the opening meetings of the Higher Palestinian Council for Culture, Education, and Sciences.

The 2-day conference in Cairo will discuss the situation of Palestinian colleges in the occupied territories and ways to develop cultural affairs in light of the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat gave a speech at the conference in which he explained the current political conditions for the Palestinian issue and developments in this issue, particularly over the past 10 years. He noted that the recent Palestinian political positions have caused noticeable international activity. He said that the same Palestinian proposals were made over the past 10 years but were always rejected by the United States and Israel.

'Arafat affirmed that there were factors which influenced the developments of the Palestinian issue, the first being the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] which has changed the world's view of the Palestinian issue and proved and exposed the failure of the world's occupation authorities.

The Palestinian leader stressed the role of educational institutions in the occupied homeland in leading the intifadah and in providing education. He noted that the colleges and educational institutions in the occupied territories have always been in the forefront of the Palestinian people's resistance to arbitrary Israeli practices.

'Arafat said that there is an Israeli plan based on assassinating the Palestinian leaders inside and outside the occupied territories and on preparing for an aggression against southern Lebanon in order to displace half a million Palestinians to northern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Comments on Shevardnadze Talks

NC2602172489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said today that his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Cairo on Wednesday gave a decisive boost to international action to achieve peace in the Middle East.

In statements to press and news agencies correspondents, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian-Soviet talks indicated an identical concept and analysis of the various issues discussed and that the talks dealt particularly with means to bolster efforts to hold an international conference for regional peace. The talks also showed the strength of relations between Palestine and the Soviet Union, he added.

Replying to questions on the meetings recently held in the occupied territories between Palestinians and some members of several Israeli political parties, 'Arafat said that those Palestinians participating in the meetings firmly and strongly expounded on the Palestinian stand of adherence to the PLO. They also stressed their determination and efforts toward a peace that ensures the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights through holding the international conference with the participation of all permanent Security Council members and the parties to the conflict, foremost of which is the PLO.

'Arafat stressed that Israel has failed to cause a rupture in the Palestinian ranks and create an alternative leadership to the PLO. He added that the Palestinian people have foiled Israel's maneuvers that are covered by the masks of elections and autonomy and that this people has underlined its firm untiy under the PLO leadership.

Al-Baz Comments on U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue

NC2702093489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0816 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, has asserted that all of Israel's current alternatives are rejected. There can be no return to the concept of self-rule and the acceptance of a transitional solution and administrative rule, he stated. If Israel wants peace and security in the region, he said, it must withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. He emphasized that the situation in these territories cannot remain as it is now.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', Al-Baz urged the international community to define a decisive stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and initiate peace talks. He warned against a dangerous setback. He called on the United States and the EC to assume their role so that a final agreement may be reached on the convocation of an international conference by the end of this year.

Al-Baz said that, during the forthcoming stage, the U.S. Palestinian dialogue must tackle the basic issues and not view terrorism as the main topic. He said that the United States should listen to the views of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and the Palestinians should listen to the American view with regard to the termination of the occupation, definition of borders, and ways to guarantee the Palestinian people's rights and establish a Palestinian state with confederal relations with Jordan.

Mubarak Urges Israel To Consider Peace Options

NC2602133989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has called on Israel to show interest in the options proposed by the Palestinians and to take its own initiative toward peace. He said that Israel must accept what the PLO has in fact accepted, namely the establishment of two states on Palestinian territories, one of them Jewish and the other Arab, and both linked to Jordan by confederation.

In an interview with the Italian weekly EPOCHA, President Mubarak said that Israel must accept the withdrawal from the occupied territories and negotiations with the PLO. He added: We feel it is important that the United States continue its dialogue with the PLO and expand the scope of this dialogue. He said: We want the United States to exercise its influence in convincing the Israeli Government to agree unconditionally to negotiations within the framework of a peace conference.

Regarding the Soviet role in the Middle East, President Mubarak said: For anyone to oppose the participation of a major country, such as the Soviet Union, in the process of achieving peace is not comprehensible.

Documents for Settling Tabah Issue Detailed

NC2502215889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Documents and contracts leading to Tabah's return to Egypt will be signed tomorrow, Sunday, at the Sonesta Hotel in Tabah.

Three documents will be signed tomorrow. The first is a contract under which the Sonesta Hotel and the Nelson Tourist village will be purchased, and according to which the ownership of the hotel and the village will be transferred from Israel to Egypt. Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, will sign the contract for Egypt.

The second document concerns the timing of Israel's final withdrawal from Tabah. This will be signed for the Egyptian side by Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks; for the Israeli side by Merhav, the general director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry; and for the U.S. side by Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser of the U.S. State Department.

The third document will be signed for Egypt by Major General Sa'id al-Shinnawi, assistant interior minister and director of the Passports, Immigration, and Nationality Department. This document concerns the rules and regulations governing the entrance of tourists to the south Sinai region, including Tabah. These regulations are in accordance with the rules in the Egyptian-Israeli peace accords.

MENA has learned that the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai will take place on 15 March 1989 in a ceremony in which the Egyptian flag will be hoisted and the Israeli flag brought down, thus marking the settlement of the last unresolved issue in the Egyptian-Israeli conflict.

MENA also has learned that the Egyptian police will enter Tabah on the day after tomorrow, Monday, to assume their tasks there, the first of which will be to take charge of the entrance to Tabah. Employees of the Tourism Ministry will also go to Tabah on Monday to take over the tourist facilities.

MENA also has learned that the Egyptian pound will be the legal currency for use in the Tabah area.

3 Contracts 'Finally Signed'

NC2602203889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tabah 26 Feb (MENA)—Three Tabah contracts were finally signed here tonight.

The tourism contract was signed for the Egyptians by Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation. This contract pertains to purchasing the Sonesta Hotel and Nelson Tourist Village. The contract setting the date for final Israeli withdrawal from the area was signed by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian delegation to

the Tabah talks. The third contract, on passage through Tabah, was signed by Major General Sa'id al-Shinnawi, assistant interior minister and director of the Passports, Immigration, and Citizenship Department. This contract pertains to regulations on tourists' entry to southern Sinai, including Tabah. After the three Tabah contracts were signed, Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, said that the contracts will be implemented within 15 days, with the latest on 15 March. He pointed out that an agreement was reached on the military aspect and delineation of relations. Another agreement was also signed concerning compensation for the tourist facilities, Minister Sultan added. He said that the Israeli Government has relinquished the right to the compensation it had previously requested for the Tabah tourist facilities' infrastructure, estimated at $1.1 million. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi said that the agreement signed this evening pertaining to border marker No 91 stipulates that the border between Egypt and Israel will extend in a straight line between marker No 91, the last border marker, and the Gulf of Aqaba as was the situation before June 1967 and during the British Mandate of Palestine.

Envoy to Israel Submits Report to 'Abd al-Majid
NC2002111790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, submitted a report today to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Egyptian-Israeli relations and peace efforts in the region, in light of the PLO's initiatives. The report also dealt with issues relating to the Israeli foreign minister's visit to Egypt today.

'First Witness' Describes Attacks on Diplomats
JN2602191089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Feb 89 p 11

[Excerpt] The first witness in the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization gave testimony for the 2d day running. He recounted confessions of the third defendant, Ahmad 'Isam al-Din al-Sayyid, on members of the group and details of the four incidents involving attacks against Israeli and American diplomats. According to the third defendant's confessions, funding for the Egypt's Revolution Organization came from Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and Libya. Khalid was said to have supplied the organization with the weapons used in the operations. Former Vice President Husayn al-Shafi'i attended yesterday's court session, and the court recessed until next Thursday to hear other testimony by the witness.

The first witness, Colonel Fahd Badr al-Din, said that on 15 August 1987 a person said that he had information on the Egypt's Revolution Orgnization and that he sought protection for himself and his family from the organization's members. The man said he was a member of the organization and gave his name as Ahmad 'Isam al-Din al-Sayyid, "the third defendant." He also supplied the names of the members of the organizations: His brother Mahmud Nur al-Din, Khalid, 'Abd al-Hamid, Nazmi, Sami Fishah, Hamadah, Hasan, 'Adli, and others.

'Isam then related the incidents in their chronological order. The first operation, he said, aimed at assassinating Israeli Attache Ze'ev Kadar, in which he was joined by his brother Mahmud, Muhyi, and Ahmad 'Ali. He purchased the car used in the operation at the Al-Ma'adi marketplace. They carried out the attack after monitoring the movements and schedule of the diplomat, he added. 'Isam said that he later learned that his brother Mahmud and 'Ahmad 'Ali had gone to the home of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and handed him a letter on the execution of the operation and that they had communicated statement No 1 to REUTER.

The witness said that the third defendant did not take part in the second operation, which took place on 20 August 1985 and in which Israeli diplomat Albert Artkash lost his life. Mahmud Nazmi, Hamadah, and Sami participated in this operation in the same manner as the previous one.

The third operation took place in front of the exhibition in the city of Nasr and involved 'Isamm, Mahmud, Nazmi, Muhyi, and Jamal in the same manner as the two previous operations. 'Isam did not take part in the fourth operation, which targeted security men of the American Embassy. The operation was carried out by Mahmud, Jamal, Nazmi, and Sami.

The witness added: The third defendant, Ahmad 'Isam, said that his brother Mahmud had worked in London and returned to Egypt in 1983. He had made the acquaintance of Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir in London and broached with him the formation of the organization with a view to ending the Israeli presence in Egypt. His brother then proceeded to recruit members for the organization. The funding was handled by Mahmud Nur al-Din, and the money came from Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and Libya.

Mahmud was in charge of the monthly salaries of the Egypt's Revolution Organization's members, paying between 500 and 1,000 Egyptian pounds apiece for participants in each operation. Some of the weapons were purchased from a furniture merchant. Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir also brought them some. Shaykh Muhyi, a member of the organization, was responsible for maintenance of the weapons and training members in their use. Some of the organization's members were drug addicts, but they were later treated and cured. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Further on Reaction to Armed Forces Memorandum

Al-Mahdi Briefs Press on Talks

EA2402114389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had a meeting with General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Major General Mahdi Babu Nimir, the chief of staff, in his office today. In a statement to the press Al-Mahdi said they reviewed the outcome of his meeting yesterday with the Army commanders and the General Command. His excellency said he received a report on operations in Equatoria indicating that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation.

Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also held a meeting today with the leaders of political parties whom he briefed on the Armed Forces memorandum. He told them [word indistinct] issues concerning his reply to it. Al-Ustadh Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqd, secretary-general of the Communist Party, told the press that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received assurances from the Armed Forces commanders that [word indistinct] was not a final warning. On the [word indistinct] of the defense minister's resignation and the Armed Forces memorandum, Nuqd said the prime minister clarified that the resignation happened days before the memorandum and that there was no connection between them and said another meeting with party leaders would take place on 26 February.

This afternoon the prime minister had a meeting with newspaper editors during which he reviewed the present political situation, the Armed Forces memorandum to the government, and his reply to it. He said a statement would be issued by the (?General Secretariat) on the details of these. [passage omitted].

Dr Bashir 'Umar, culture and information minister, said there was no connection between what the (defense) minister said on his resignation and the Armed Forces memorandum, although some of the points were similar. His excellency said he could not see any condition or request from the Armed Forces to the prime minister on endorsing the peace initiative signed by the Democratic Unionist Party, and the people's movement, the SPLA, and the memorandum did not lay down any conditions on its acceptance.

Council Replies to Memorandum

EA2402184689 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] In reply to the memorandum of the Armed Forces, the Council of Ministers has issued a statement outlining basic principles which must be observed. The points made in the statement, which was presented by Mr Bashir 'Umar Fadlallah, the minister of culture and information, are as follows:

Observance of the constitutional commitment to military discipline; broadening the base of participation in government is better and more effective; defense of the homeland and protection of its territory is a national duty; attention to internal mobilization; study by the military command of military performance and (?evaluation); aiming at a just peace without pressure; balanced foreign relations without forming alliances with or submitting to anyone; condemnation of conspiracy and dealing with issues of the homeland truthfully and objectively.

Al-Mirghani Supports Memo

NC2502101789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0909 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (MENA)—Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani, in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has voiced unreserved support for the Sudanese Armed Forces' memorandum. He asserted that the Armed Forces' intentions have been correct and patriotic and said that for this reason he has supported and welcomed their praiseworthy action.

He stressed that he has called for establishing of a national government since his assuming his post as State Council chairman and that he continues to do so out of his desire to achieve unity among Sudan's citizens in confronting security and stability requirements.

The Armed Forces submitted a memorandum to the Sudanese prime minister last week in which they demanded support for themselves, unification of the domestic front, and adoption of a balanced foreign policy to supply the Armed Forces from abroad. They gave the government 1 week to implement the demands.

In an interview with the Sudanese AL-ADWA' newspaper to be published today, Ahmad al-Mirghani affirmed he has always sought and continues to seek the support of all Arab brothers to urge them to aid Sudan, particularly with regard to the requirements of the Armed Forces and economic development. He said he had sought to achieve this during his meetings with all the Arab kings and presidents.

Al-Mirghani urged all Sudanese political parties to renounce partisanship and to support a nationalist drive for the good of the country and to bolster the ties of friendship with Arab and other friendly states. He affirmed that the only solution for Sudan with regard to its foreign policy is to stand clearly by the side of its Arab brothers.

In conclusion, the Sudanese State Council chairman emphasized the need to support the Armed Forces, to make an earnest quest for peace, and to disband the militias and hand over their weapons to the Army or police at the earliest possible opportunity.

Ummah Party Statement on Memo

NC2502112989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese Ummah Party, led by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has affirmed that the memorandum submitted by the Armed Forces to the government is an exceptional phenomenon in Sudanese political life and cannot be repeated.

Nevertheless, in a statement which the party issued following a meeting held by its Political Bureau last night, the party said it understands the oppressive circumstances in which the memorandum was issued. The statement continued that the party accepts the memorandum as a contribution by the Armed Forces since it is connected with public and national issues.

Regarding the issues with which the Armed Forces memorandum deals, such as expanding the government base, criticizing foreign policy, and the issue of the peace intiative in southern Sudan, the statement announced that the Al-Ummah Party accepts the call for expanding the government base through acceptable formulas. The party on its part proposed the establishment of a government in which the entire Constituent Assembly would be represented and which would restrict itself to a specific program.

With regard to foreign policy, the statement asserted the need to adhere to a policy of nonalignment and to forge better relations with neighboring countries and distinctive relations with Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia on the basis that foreign relations are the key to peace.

The party explained its position on the peace initiative, pointing out that it had accepted the peace initiative with the agreed-upon reservations. [wa awdaha al-hizb mawqifahu min mubadarat al-salam, mushiran ila annahu qabila mubadarat al-salam ma' al-tahaffuzat al-muttafaq 'alayha.] It urged the government to seek immediately to complete the procedures pertaining to holding a constitutional conference.

The statement stressed the need to unify the domestic front and to support the Armed Forces materially, morally, politically, and in the media sphere to enable them to carry out their duty. The statement emphasized the unlimited confidence the Ummah Party has in the Armed Forces' competence.

The Ummah Party's Political Bureau held a meeting last night during which it was briefed by Al-Mahdi on the nature of recent events and political developments and the results of Al-Mahdi's consultations and meetings with the Armed Forces commanders, political party leaders, and newspaper editors. The bureau also discussed the Armed Forces' memorandum and the idea of forming a government of national salvation.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] stressed that the stance adopted by the Armed Forces urging the establishment of a government of national salvation is identical with DUP's views, noting that the party had submitted these views in the letter announcing its withdrawal from the government.

The DUP Political Bureau held a meeting last night in which it praised the Armed Forces' stand in upholding democracy as the Sudanese people's sole choice. The DUP Political Bureau announced that it considers this a noble stand. The party discussed the political situation in the country in light of recent events in its meeting under the chairmanship of Muhammad al-Mirghani.

Government Invites 'Other Groups'

AB2502111789 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 25 (AFP)—Sudan's Ummah Party, the leading formation in the ruling two-party coalition led by Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, said Saturday it would invite other groups represented in Parliament to take part in the government.

Late Friday, in a nationwide broadcast, a government spokesman said the cabinet invisaged "widening the base of the government, opening the way to peace, adopting a more balanced foreign policy, and paying more attention to internal problems."

The Ummah Party said it also accepted, with reservations, a peace plan drawn up last November in Addis Ababa by rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which at the time was in the government.

The DUP later withdrew from the coalition after Parliament refused to endorse the peace plan, which provided for a ceasefire in the war in the south and a freeze on the application of Islamic (shari'a) law until the holding of a constitutional conference on the country's basic political problems.

In the present coalition with the Ummah Party, the other partner is the fundamentalist National Islamic Front. The rebels in the mainly Christian and animist south, led by Colonel John Garang, are not represented in the Khartoum Parliament.

In its statement, Mr al-Mahdi's Ummah Party urged the government to press ahead rapidly with the constitutional conference which the SPLM would attend. The statement was seen as a response to an ultimatum delivered by senior Army officers to the government early this week demanding that the prime minister form a "government of national salvation" within a week and take urgent steps to end the civil war in the south. Acording to the Army officers, the new government must then make a clear decision on whether to continue the war or begin negotiations for peace.

In its statement, the Ummah Party said that the officers' initiative was a precedent that it hoped would not be repeated.

A broadcast statement late Friday by Information Minister Bashir 'Umar deplored the "plots and ill intentions" by unnamed groups, but was seen as a response to the ultimatum by 150 Army officers, led by Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Ahmad Ali.

Mr. 'Umar said the government would adopt a "balanced foreign policy, with no alignment." The Army had called for a loosening of ties between Khartoum and the governments of Libya and Iran.

Mr. 'Umar's statement that the Army should confine itself to "defending democracy against all forms of dictatorship" was seen as an intended reprimand, but observers said the government had in effect given way to most of the Army's demands.

Al-Mahdi 'To Enlarge' Cabinet

NC2502132389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has expressed his desire to enlarge his current cabinet. During a meeting with Army commanders today, he called for forming a national salvation government, stressing this will be the best formula for the current phase.

The prime minister will hold an emergency meeting with his cabinet members today and he will meet with party leaders tomorrow as part of the intensified meetings he is holding to discuss the recent memorandum from the Armed Forces to the government.

'Text' of Armed Forces Memorandum

EA2602163589 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Brother comrades-in-arms, as a service to our listeners and out of concern to keep you informed, we present the text of the memorandum submitted by the Command of the Armed Forces to the State Council, with a copy to the chairman of the Council of Ministers, on Monday 20 February 1989:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, amongst believers there are men who are true to the pledges they made to God. Some have died and others are waiting, but none has gone back on his pledge. [Koranic verse] God has spoken the truth.

Chairman and members of the State Council, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defense: This memorandum is based on our national, patriotic and historic responsibility at this critical stage for our country and in consideration of the grave security situation facing some parts of our homeland. It is the result of careful reading and deep study of the current situation and an appraisal of future prospects and eventualities which may lead to an unexpected turn of events resulting in a threat to the country's territorial integrity and national unity and to the march of democracy approved by the people and included in the Constitution as irreplaceable.

It is also based on Article 15 of Sudan's 1985 transitional constitution, which reads: The People's Armed Forces are inseparable from the people. Their task is to protect the country and its territory and to safeguard the objectives and gains of the popular April revolution.

Our Armed Forces have carried out their duties professionally, courageously, and with sacrifice in unfavorable circumstances and with the minimum availability of the basic requirements for conducting combat operations. Without further detail, this can be demonstrated by the stand of our courageous forces at Al-Nasir, which proved that the Sudanese soldier, as he has been since the formation of the Sudan defense forces, is a model of steadfastness, sacrifice, and devotion.

2. [No No 1 as heard] We have lost territories not because of any shortcoming on the part of the combatants of our brave Army, but because of the scarce combat resources and shortcomings in the movement of regular reinforcements. The enemy, on the other hand, enjoys the support of both East and West and is provided with all the resources and requirements of regular forces.

3. Today we have a historic responsibility towards the territorial integrity and cohesion of our homeland and towards our officers and soldiers who are sacrificing themselves out of holy devotion, sacrificing themselves in a way which has never before been witnessed in the modern history of Sudan.

It is our historic responsibility as a general command and as commanders of our Armed Forces to be cohesive, supportive, and united in complete impartiality with regard to the provision of our combat and moral requirements. History will not forgive those of us who head our brave Armed Forces involved in battles imposed on them if we do not find the minimum requirements to defend them or provide moral support on the domestic front.

4. All of us, commanders and troops, are fully aware of our sacred responsibilities and duties to preserve every inch of the soil of our homeland. We will not be found lacking. We will not be defeated, we will not surrender.

5. The war we are waging in southern Sudan has uncovered a new, unique strategic dimension not seen in the modern world. The Western and Eastern camps have united in support of the rebel movement which we are confronting. The Eastern bloc is providing all the combat, training, and advisory requirements of the outlaw movement, while the Western camp is employing all its material and information resources in the service of the

rebel movement. Indeed, the Western world is preventing and dissuading the moderate Arab states from providing us with even our minimal current defense requirements, while at the same time continually providing support to the outlaw camps by land and by air under the umbrella of relief. 6. Western countries and some international voluntary organisations have used every means to influence Sudan's donor countries. This may be seen clearly in the attitude of the countries towards Sudan. This influence has reached the extent where friendly and fraternal countries that helped us in the past have been threatened, resulting in a reduction in the amount of their assistance.

7. In the regional arena, there are some neighboring countries which are clearly hostile and are utilizing their resources in support of the rebel movement. As for Ethiopia, its stand is clear. It will continue to support the rebel movement until it achieves its objective of finding an appropriate solution to the Eritrean issue.

8. In short, an economic and information siege has been imposed on Sudan. The direct effects of this are being felt daily by our Armed Forces which are paying for it with their lives on the battlefields.

9. Without going deeply into what is happening on the domestic front, we are nevertheless aware of the dimensions and the effects. We concentrate only on two aspects: first, the direct effect on Sudanese national security, and second, the effect on running military operations and on the cohesion and unity of the Armed Forces.

10. We conclude that what Sudan is witnessing on its domestic front indicates looming danger for the homeland, its security, territorial integrity, and the right of its people to a bright future.

11. We have previously made reference to the weakness of our current military abilities which are basically undermined by the absence of studied defense policies in recent years. They have become exacerbated now as a result of the continuing attrition due to the war and the effect of the economic and military siege imposed on us today.

We have, indeed, asked the National Defense Council to provide us with our required military needs today and not tomorrow so we may effect military superiority and regain equilibrium. Notwithstanding our full appreciation of all the efforts of the government and the active moves of the Defense Ministry and the General Command in all areas, the hoped-for positive outcome has not been achieved, nor have all the fighting requirements of the Armed Forces been provided. The forces have collided with bitter realities caused by the internal and external policies of the state.

12. When we view the status of the enemy, we find his forces today are approaching 40,000 outlaws with unlimited military support, with open supply lines across good roads from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. This is addition to air transport to Kapoeta, Boma, and Kongor airfields. As to material support from nongovernmental volunteer organisations, this is clear on the battlefields and in the enemy's ability to finance the proliferation of his offices abroad and the travel of his men to foreign countries.

There is another more dangerous aspect to the morale of our people and our forces, namely, the employment of the world media in the service of the movement and its waging of a psychological war which cannot be matched by the limited resources of our state.

In short, this military assessment points to a disequilibrium in the balance of power. The experience of our forces in resisting the rebel movement is extensive. The fighter of the Sudanese Army is the best example of bravery, daring, and sacrifice. We shall never be defeated, God willing. Yes, we have lost some battles. However, we shall never accept that history should record that we have lost this war.

13. On the basis of the foregoing, it is important to stress that whatever is to be put forward in the way of proposals and recommendations should represent the public opinion of the military after its questioning by the organs concerned and after discussion and unanimity of the commanders at all levels.

14. The unity of the ranks and the cohesiveness of the military Armed Forces is a sacred objective not subject to negotiation. The Armed Forces, characterised by impartial patriotic direction constitute the only safeguard for the cohesiveness, territorial integrity, and future of this homeland.

15. All of us, (?regardless of rank) who are deployed throughout the whole of Sudan must stress in clear and unambiguous terms that we support the options of the genuine Sudanese people in preserving democracy, just as we stressed on 6 April. We reject all forms of dictatorship. We shall always remain loyal to our sacred duties of preserving and maintaining the integrity and sovereignty of the homeland.

16. The management of armed conflict cannot be separated from the management of balanced policies of the state. Consequently, the state must aim to break the economic and military siege imposed on us by the West and the East by following balanced policies to enable us to gain the respect of the world through our guided democracy and enable us to attract the economic aid and military assistance we need.

17. The cohesiveness and unity of the internal front require the application of national direction free of political exaggerations in fighting and planning. This requires, above all, the widening of the base for participation in government to make it possible to emerge from this difficult corner.

18. The Sudanese Armed Forces have never been defeated and will never be defeated, God willing. They will continue to perform their vanguard and patriotic role through sacrifice and self-denial, and for this reason the state ought to pursue a course of peace in its internal and external policies to enable the Armed Forces to discharge their constitutional tasks.

19. Finally, we can do no more than stress again that all of us face our historic responsibilities for which we will be accountable to future generations of Sudanese. These responsibilities are that we should preserve the security, integrity, and cohesiveness of the Armed Forces. We must never accept any bargaining in their name. We must never subject them to sacrifices and losses due to shortages of resources or for other objective reasons which the Armed Forces can never be question.

Consequently, while we stress our loyalty to God, the land, and the people, we present to you this memorandum which comes from the unanimity of the Armed Forces so you may make the necessary decisions within a week from today.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: We have offered trust to the heavens, the earth, and the mountains and they refused to bear it out of awe but man agreed to bear it, for he is a wrongdoer and ignorant. [Koranic verse]. God has spoken the truth.

Gen Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Khartoum, 20 February 1989

Cabinet To Publish Memo, Reply

NC2502172089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese Cabinet held its second emergency meeting under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi this evening, at which it approved the principle of enlarging the current cabinet. It also authorized Prime Minister al-Mahdi to hold the necessary contacts to unite the domestic front.

The Sudanese Cabinet stressed its adherence to nonalignment, neutrality, and balanced relations as basic principles of Sudan's foreign policy, indicating that Sudan's supreme interest is the sole criterion for dealing with other states. The cabinet also denounced foreign intervention in Sudan's internal affairs.

During its 5-hour meeting, the cabinet also decided to immediately begin activity at the international level to explain the facts about the current political situation and gain support. The prime minister, as well as the chairman and the members of the State Council, will participate in this activity. It also decided to organize visits by governmental and party delegations to the battlefronts and to the major Sudanese towns so that they could be briefed on the current situation.

Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the government, said that Prime Minister al-Mahdi will deliver a speech before the Constituent Assembly Monday [27 February] morning to explain the situation in Sudan in all of its aspects.

'Umar disclosed that the cabinet has decided to publish the Sudanese Armed Forces' memorandum in full, as well as Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's reply to it in a way that does not jeopardize state secrets or the Armed Forces. He added that the cabinet considers the memorandum to be an expression of national participation in the discussion of the homeland's issues.

'Umar said that the cabinet decided to set up a ministerial operations room to provide more support for the Armed Forces and to strengthen the military effort. The cabinet authorized the operations room to publicize the program approved on 14 February, calling for general mobilization to defend the homeland and democracy. Technical committees will be formed to implement this program. The operations room also will issue the fundamental statement on peace and will prepare for the national constitutional conference.

The minister of culture and information stressed that the cabinet has called for vigilance, caution, and alert in view of the situation which the country is currently facing.

Al-Mahdi Replies to Commander

NC2602133689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stressed that the policy of axes pursued in the era of former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri is the cause of all the problems from which Sudanese national security now suffers. He said that under the "May" regime, Sudan engaged in a policy of axis and alignment. This gave rise to the establishment of a counter-axis, the Aden axis, which financed, armed, and trained the rebel movement, thus causing us harm, he said.

This was included in a statement that Prime Minister al-Mahdi has sent to Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, in response to the Armed Forces memorandum that 150 Army officers sent the government in the wake of Monday's resignation of Sudanese Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil.

Regarding Sudanese-Libyan relations, Al-Mahdi pointed out in his reply that Sudan, which is aware of the harmful consequences of unfriendly relations with Libya, believes its ties to Libya should be based on understanding. He noted that Sudan played a positive role in

reconciling Libya and Chad and is currently working to achieve a similar reconciliation between Libya and Egypt. He added: We cannot maintain relations with either of these two neighbors at the expense of the other. He emphasized that his country obtained several advantages by maintaining good relations with Libya, which are governed by common interests (?and not) based on subordination.

Turning to Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Al-Mahdi said in his reply to the Armed Forces: We have assured Egypt of our eagerness to maintain our relationship and agreed to do so. But for some reason, he added, Egypt takes a neutral stance on our war in the South, on the pretext that it is a domestic problem.

Al-Mahdi added: We have pointed out to our brothers in Egypt, and they know, that those who are carrying out the aggression in the south rely on a certain foreign power and they are aware of the role of the Aden axis in this respect. However, he added, they stayed neutral toward the "May" regime, during the period of the transitional government, and during the era of the elected government.

Al-Mahdi added: We looked forward, and still do, to seeing the brothers in Egypt deal with the issue on the basis of reality and in light of the common threat.

Al-Mahdi touched on Sudanese-Saudi relations, saying: We have exchanged the best of sentiments, alghough Saudi Arabia's military support for our country has not matched up to the level of these sentiments. The prime minister referred in his reply to what the Armed Forces memorandum had described as Sudan's bias toward Iran, stressing that this charge is incorrect. Al-Mahdi said his country's foreign policy is based on nonalignment, nonengagement in axes, and balance. He noted in this respect that a detailed foreign policy program had been drawn up.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that U.S. military assistance has shrunk since the last years of the May regime. He said this was because U.S. foreign military assistance in general has been cut and also because Sudan is not as aligned with U.S. strategic objectives as it used to be. He added that the EC's assistance to Sudan is civilian and not military. This support has not stopped, but on the contrary has increased to cover a variety of areas, he stated.

Al-Mahdi's reply also emphasized that, as far as the domestic front is concerned, Sudan is in a better position than its African neighbors, in terms of prospects for national unity.

The Sudanese prime minister also said that the Armed Forces in Sudan are fundamentally lacking in air defense and naval weapons. He shares the memorandum's view that the rebellion in the south is enjoying extraordinary support from various sources, he added.

The Sudanese prime minister is expected to deliver a statement before the Constituent Assembly tomorrow, Monday. It is anticipated that in the statement he will propose a solution for the crisis caused by the Armed Forces memorandum. Al-Mahdi is scheduled to hold consultations today and tomorrow with Democratic Unionist Party officials to discuss their participation in a new government, ways to patch up internal differences, and the foreign policy of the new government.

Resignation of Commander Denied

NC2602141689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 Feb (MENA)—The official spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces has denied a foreign news agency report that General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has resigned. The spokesman noted that this report is unfounded.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the official spokesman said that the Armed Forces General Command will hold a meeting tomorrow, Monday, under the chairmanship of Gen Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the commander in chief, and attended by the commanders of the main branches of the Armed Forces. The current situation will be discussed at the meeting, in light of the Sudanese Government's memorandum, which the commander in chief received today in response to the memorandum submitted by the Armed Forces earlier. [passage omitted]

AFP: Army Said on Alert

NC2602222989 Paris AFP in English 2216 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Feb 26 (AFP)—The Sudanese Army was on alert throughout Khartoum on Sunday, a little more than 24 hours before the expiry of its ultimatum to Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi to form a new government, witnesses said. Soldiers manned checkpoints on roads leading into Khartoum, searching vehicles and passengers.

Last Tuesday senior Army officers gave Mr. al-Mahdi a week to form a "government of national salvation" and take steps to end the bloody six-year civil war in the south of the country.

On Saturday the cabinet, meeting to consider the ultimatum, accepted the principle of a broader-based government, a few hours after Mr. al-Mahdi's Ummah Party, the leading group in Sudan's ruling two-party coalition, said it would invite other groups represented in parliament to join the government.

But Sudan's fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF), Ummah's coalition partner, said Sunday it rejected the principle of a broader-based government.

Ummah also said on Saturday that it accepted, with reservations, a peace plan drawn up in November by rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which was then a member of the governing coalition along with Ummah and the NIF. [passage omitted]

State Council Member Escapes Assassination
AB2602110789 Paris AFP in French 1023 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Feb (AFP)—One of the five members of the State Council of the Republic of Sudan, the Sovereign Council, Mr Mirghani al-Nasri, on Friday [24 February] escaped an assassination attempt. This was learned here today from a police source. The perpetrator of the attempt, a driver known as Faisat Musa Kabsul, who had been fired by Mr al-Nasri, stabbed the sentry posted near the official's residence, took away his gun, and began shooting. A bodyguard of the Sudanese official disarmed the assailant by shooting at his hand.

Mr al-Nasri, an independent member of the council and a lawyer had up until his appointment [words indistinct] been a counsel in the Sudanese Bar Association.

Doctors Submit Collective Resignation 26 Feb
NC2602135289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1234 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 Feb (MENA)—Sudanese doctors submitted their collective resignation today, following a huge demonstration in which about 3,000 doctors marched from the Doctors Union building to the Health Ministry. The resignations, which numbered 2,761, were submitted to Dr Muhammad Ibrahim al-Imam, Health Ministry under secretary, by Doctors Union Chairman Dr 'Abd al-Rahman Abu al-Kull and Union Secretary General Dr Najib Najm al-Din.

Along with their resignations, the doctors submitted a memorandum from their union, addressed to Health Minister Dr Ma'mun Yusuf. In the memorandum the doctors affirm their rejection of the policy of procrastination and evasion in decisionmaking and reject and denounce the way in which the health minister has dealt with the doctors' demands on the information level, without seeking to discuss the matter with union leaders. The Sudanese doctors rejected any agreement made without the involvement of their union. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II Threatens To Down Red Cross Aircraft
EA2402195589 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Brothers and sisters of the south and all the sons of Sudan, Muhammad Chuol [Anya Nya II assistant secretary general] greets you from National Unity Radio and greets all the fighters in our beloved south. [passage omitted]

Our citizens must know that some dangerous things are happening to the extent that aircraft transporting relief supplies, particularly those belonging to the Red Cross, are working in favor of the rebel movement in some areas. We of Anya Nya II, from this platform, sternly warn relief aircraft not to land at Ler and Adok because it is from these places that the rebel movement transports its forces to and from Bilpam. Drugs are also being brought to the rebel movement.

Therefore, any aircraft attempting to land at Ler or Adok will be shot down. We of Anya Nya II have the capability of doing that and those who send such aircraft to the area will be held responsible. We in Anya Nya II will not retreat from this decision. We shall shoot down such aircraft and we have the means of doing so. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's President Mubarak

Arrives 26 Feb

NC2602064889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his delegation arrived here at 0845 Kuwait time, 0745 Cairo time, from Tokyo on a 2-day visit to Kuwait. His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, met President Mubarak at the airport. Also present were Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister; Kuwaiti shaykhs, ministers, and senior state officials; Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait; Arab ambassadors accredited to Kuwait; and staff members of the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait.

Meets With Amir

LD2602200589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1658 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 26 (KUNA)—His highness the amir Sunday had a round of talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who arrived here earlier in the day for a two-day visit which is expected to further strengthen ties between Cairo and Kuwait.

The Egyptian president came here from Tokyo where he attended the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito and had talks with a number of world leaders, including U.S. President George Bush, chiefly on the Mideast peace process.

Holds Further Talks 27 Feb

NC2702082689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 27 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah held their main round of talks at 0930 Kuwait local time, 0830 Cairo time. [passage omitted] The bilateral talks lasted for 1 and ½ hours. Later, the Kuwaiti amir accompanied President Mubarak to Kuwait airport, from where the president and his delegation will leave for home.

Departs Kuwait 27 Feb

LD2702104289 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0917 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Feb (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his delegation left this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to the State of Kuwait.

Shaykh Nawwaf on Regional Defense Cooperation

PM2402144889 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 17 Feb 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Enhancing Defense Capability at the Forefront of Expenditure Priorities in Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 'UKAZ—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah has stated that his country is ready to face any eventuality. He added: Kuwait seeks more security and stability in the region, but the fact that Iran and Iraq have still not reached a final settlement to end the state of war prompts us to prepare for any emergency.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that expenditure priorities in Kuwait are still focused on defense because conditions in the region are still unstable: We must not ignore this fact.

Shaykh Nawwaf added that the GCC states are seeking more cooperation and coordination in defense, because they are now convinced of the need to take more steps to secure everyone's safety. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah spoke about setting up a unified Gulf military industry. He said: Our progress in this direction is good. At present we are focusing on simple defense equipment and we hope to continue developing our defense capabilities. We believe that expansion in this field is desirable because of its vital importance. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Minister on Trade Cooperation

JN1702163889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p 8

[Text] Bulgarian Deputy Trade Minister Georgi Pirinski has stressed his country's concern about promoting its economic, trade, and investment relations with Kuwait. He pointed out that his country seeks to attract Kuwaiti investment in tourism and the food industry in Bulgaria.

At a news conference at the Kuwait Meridien yesterday, he added that Bulgaria believes cooperation with Kuwait is still far short of what it should be despite political relations based on friendship and understanding paving the way for greater economic cooperation in the interests of both countries.

Regarding cooperation relations with Kuwait, the head of the Bulgarian delegation said that they are good and comprise three parts: The first is the engineering projects carried out by Bulgarian companies in Kuwait; the second is trade exchange; the third is the cooperative part. He pointed out that trade exchange between the two countries reached $25 million last year.

He continued that among the most important Bulgarian exports to Kuwait are food, furniture, and batteries while Bulgaria's imports from Kuwait are very limited because Bulgaria imports its oil from the USSR. He added that trade exchange with Kuwait is very limited in terms of Bulgaria's foreign trade, which is estimated at $27 billion.

Pirinski said that his visit to Kuwait is within the framework of completing the talks of the Kuwaiti-Bulgarian trade and technical cooperation committee and that he had met with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqr, chairman of Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid, minister of trade and industry; and a number of senior officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry, the General Investment Authority, and a number of banks and companies.

The Bulgarian deputy trade minister said that he has discussed with General Investment Authority officials details of the agreement on protection for guaranteeing investment that has been proposed for the two countries. He said that they have discussed the kind of investments to be included in the agreement and details of protection to be given. He stressed that tangible progress was made in this regard and that several points were explained, adding that further meetings are necessary to complete a draft agreement.

Pirinski said that during the visit, he briefed the Kuwaitis on the recent Bulgarian law. He pointed out that this law allows foreign companies to establish branches in Bulgaria, take part in joint ventures, transfer their profits outside the country, transfer the company's capital in hard currency outside the country, and invest in land and natural resources in Bulgaria. He added that the Bulgarian delegation suggested several projects Bulgaria desires to market to Kuwaiti investors in tourism and the food industry to build hotels, tourist villages, and warm water resorts and to carry out projects in packing and canning foodstuffs for export to several regions, particularly Kuwait and the Arab Gulf states. He went on to say that Bulgarian tourist facilities can attract Kuwaiti and Gulf visitors and that Kuwait's contribution can nourish and reactivate this industry.

He pointed out that Bulgaria provides a suitable market for long-term investment because of the absence of fierce competition. He said Kuwaiti businessmen's ignorance about the investment situation and atmosphere in Bulgaria has made attracting them to Bulgaria difficult. He continued that a factor in favor of attracting investment to Bulgaria is the good relationship based on confidence that has been established during the past years. He added that technical cooperation has been established through a joint venture for land transportation in addition to Bulgarian companies' projects in Kuwait in telecommunications. Talks are being held between the two countries to set up a land reclamation project and Kuwaiti tankers were provided with Bulgarian engineers, he said.

Asked about EEC influence on the Bulgarian market, the deputy trade minister said that his country is holding talks with the EEC to reach an agreement on customs and the transit of goods and commodities.

Saudi Arabia

King's Message Conveyed to Bush in Tokyo

LD2502131289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] tokyo, 24 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nawwaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met this evening with U.S. President George Bush during a reception given by Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in honor of their majesties and excellencies the kings, heads of state, and representatives of countries who are currently in Tokyo to attend the funeral of the late emperor Hirohito of Japan. [passage omitted]

His Highness Prince Nawwaf told SPA: I conveyed to His Excellency U.S. President George Bush and to the U.S. secretary of state the greetings of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He added: I also conveyed to them a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques, namely that his excellency would like to see a continuation of U.S. policy in its efforts to arrive at a just, lasting and honorable peace.

His Highness Prince Nawwaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz noted that the custodian of the two holy mosques hoped that the dialogue between the United States and the PLO would continue. He explained that he had conveyed this to his excellency the U.S. President.

His highness also conveyed to His Excellency President Bush the Kingdom's desire that the United States continue its efforts to maintain peace in the Arabian Gulf, as well as efforts of both countries toward a solution to the Lebanese crisis—a solution that upholds the independence and the unity of Lebanon and the election of a Lebanese president.

His Highness Prince Nawwaf Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: I found his excellency the U.S. President and his secretary of state most understanding. They affirmed the desire to strengthen relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to do their utmost to find a just and lasting peace in the area.

Official Talks With USSR Begin 24 Feb

JN2402124089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1217 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the USSR began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning. The Iraqi side to the talks was led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the USSR side was led by Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs.

The Iraqi side to the talks comprised the Foreign Ministry under secretary, a number of ministry officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow. The USSR side comprised Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a number of ministry officials; and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad. Talks between the two sides will resume tomorroew morning.

Earlier today, Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation laid a wreath of flowers on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Talks Continue 25 Feb

JN2502130489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the USSR resumed at the Foreign Ministry today. The Iraqi delegation was led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the Soviet side was led by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The two sides discussed developing bilateral relations and strengthening them in various fields to boost construction and progress in the two friendly countries. They also discussed the international situation and issues of common interest.

The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question. They affirmed the need to support the PLO in its endeavors to bring about a just peace in the Middle East.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks was composed of a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow. The USSR side comprised Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a number of the Soviet Foreign Ministry officials; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

President Receives Shevardnadze

JN2402191989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1836 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Basra, 24 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his delegation at his residence in Basra, southern Iraq. During the meeting, Shevardnadze conveyed a message to the president leader from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the close relations between the two friendly countries as well as the serious desire to promote them in all areas.

President Saddam asked Shevardnadze to convey his greetings to Soviet leader Gorbachev and stressed Iraq's similar desire and the two countries' long tradition of friendly relations and fruitful cooperation.

The two sides agreed to continue active contacts. The talks also dealt with the Iraq-Iran negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general. President Saddam emphasized Iraq's desire to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace and rejected attempts to freeze the situation in a state of neither war nor peace. The Soviet minister reaffirmed the Soviet Union's appreciation for Iraq's principled positions and its peace efforts. The two sides agreed to continue consultations on this issue.

The talks also addressed the Palestine question and the need to gather support for the PLO's initiative. The talks then touched on Aghanistan and international issues of common interest. The meeting, which lasted more than 3 hours, was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Shevardnadze News Conference

JN2502172889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has announced that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was the highpoint of his visit to Iraq.

At a news conference before leaving Baghdad this afternoon, Shevardnadze said that his 3-hour meeting with President Saddam Husayn covered a wide range of issues, particularly bilateral relations and issues of common interest, which were discussed in depth.

The Soviet foreign minister added that he and President Saddam Husayn had a lengthy meeting in which they conducted a thorough and in-depth analysis of bilateral relations. He added that joint committees comprising scientists and experts will be formed to identify areas of bilateral cooperation to exploit the great resources of both Iraq and the USSR.

Shevardnadze said his talks with President Saddam Husayn in Basra "gave us a clear picture of the changes currently taking place in Iraq to accelerate its development."

Shevardnadze went on to say that President Saddam Husayn very interested in the process of restructuring (perestroyka) in the USSR and said that his excellency the president has accurate and detailed knowledge of the subject.

The Soviet foreign minister added that President Saddam Husayn attached special importance to bilateral cooperation, which is developing on a large-scale and proceeding successfully. He said that the USSR wanted to expand economic relations with Iraq and find new areas for bilateral economic cooperation.

Shevardnadze continued that he briefed President Saddam Husayn on the results of his talks in Syria, Jordan, and Egypt and on his meetings with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister. He said: "The views of Iraq and the USSR were identical on the overall issues discussed, foremost among which were the Middle East situation and disarmament."

Shevardnadze went on to say that President Saddam Husayn was very eager to achieve peace and to establish ties with Iran based on good neighborliness and the mutual interests of both countries. He added that the president was ready to make a significant contribution to Arab unity and the Palestine question.

The Soviet foreign minister said that he conveyed a letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to President Saddam Husayn in which the former expressed the USSR's resolve to continue to advance the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations and the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Shevardnadze voiced deep satisfaction with the results of his talks in Baghdad and said that the talks will contribute greatly to developing and bolstering bilateral cooperation, adding: "Our achievement is the fruit of joint efforts by both Iraq and the USSR."

The Soviet foreign minister praised the construction and progress he saw in the cities of Baghdad and Basra. Basra is currently undergoing reconstruction—supervised by President Saddam Husayn—now that peace has come to the area.

Further on News Conference

JN2502194889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Feb 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 Feb (WAKH)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said there is unanimity on the need for all Arab Gulf states to clear the overall atmosphere and bolster security in the region in coordination with the United Nations.

At a news conference in Baghdad this afternoon before leaving Iraq, the Soviet foreign minister asserted the need to reach a comprehensive agreement on commitments to be made by countries benefitting from navigation in the Gulf; and for a system to be agreed after the UN Security Council permanent members have provided the proper guarantees. However, the Soviet minister gave no details of this agreement.

Shevardnadze called on the United States to withdraw its fleet from the Gulf, affirming the need to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

The Soviet foreign minister said that his country is prepared to withdraw its naval ships from the Gulf immediately after reaching an agreement.

The Soviet foreign minister said: During talks with Iraqi officials, I expressed the Soviet leadership's concern over the intensive presence of naval fleets in the region.

In response to a question, he pointed out that an agreement was reached with Iraqi officials to hold more consultations on means to resolve this issue. He added: There are no differences between us and our Iraqi friends over the Arabian Gulf.

When asked about his coming meeting with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Shevardnadze declined to give any details, stressing the importance of not anticipating events. He commented, however, that he "cannot avoid these very acute and urgent issues."

The Soviet foreign minister said: I do not know the exact details of my program in Tehran.

The Soviet minister's visit to Tehran constitutes the fifth and final leg of his tour, which included Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. [passage omitted] Shevardnadze went on to say: Like the Soviet Union, Iraq believes that the only realistic way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict is to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. He emphasized that Iraq and the Soviet Union agree on the need to initiate joint efforts for this conference, primarily within the framework of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Concluding the written statement that he read at the news conference, Shevardnadze extended an invitation on behalf of the Soviet Government to Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to visit the Soviet Union.

For his part, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister described Shevardnadze's visit to Iraq as "truly successful." He said: I totally agree with Shevardnadze's statement. He added that Shevardnadze's talks with President Saddam Husayn in Basra today covered bilateral relations in depth .

'Aziz said: We have a long and continuous tradition of relations with the USSR, and the dynamism we now witness in Soviet society will provide better opportunities to improve relations.

Tariq 'Aziz continued that during talks with Shevardnadze, a detailed account of the talks between Iraq and Iran was given and the Iraqi viewpoint on the talks was explained. He said: The obstacles we see now prevent any progress in these negotiations.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We have expressed our readiness to crown these negotiations with the achievement of their main goal—that is, a comprehensive and permanent peace. We have also expressed readiness to continue to cooperate with the UN secretary general.

The Iraqi foreign minister reiterated Iraq's hope that the Soviet Union will play an active role in achieving a just peace in the Middle East region. He said: We disagree with those who want to minimize the role of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has a necessary and important role, which we desire it to play. We therefore consider Shevardnadze's visit to the region as positive and necessary.

The Iraqi foreign minister accepted the invitation the Soviet Union and promised to make his visit at the earliest opportunity.

Jordan's Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i Arrives

JN2702113989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1126 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived here at noon today on a short visit to Iraq. In an arrival statement to INA, Zayd al-Rifa'i said that he will convey a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal. He added that he will discuss with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, a number of issues that were discussed in previous meetings.

The Jordanian prime minister was received at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, several ministers, and the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Khomeyni's Right To Speak for Islam Denied

JN2502064489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, has stated that his country strongly objects to the death sentence Imam Khomeyni has passed on Salman Rushdie. He denied Khomeyni's right to speak on behalf of the entire Islamic world, but said the book "The Satanic Verses" is banned in Iraq because the government believes it harms Islam.

IDF Denies Syrian Missiles Fired at Aircraft

TA2702100789 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Feb 89 p 1

[Summary] AFP reports from Rashayya some statements by Lebanese security sources to the effect that "the Syrian Army yesterday fired two SAM-7 missiles at Israeli aircraft." "Our military correspondent notes that the IDF spokesman's office at the Northern Command said the Lebanese security sources' statement has been investigated and proved groundless."

Syrian Position in EEC Report 'Surprising'

TA2602100689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad adamantly opposes the convention of a coercive international conference, fearing that such a forum would impose a solution on the Arabs.

This surprising Syrian position was revealed to the European Community troika of the French, Spanish and Greek foreign ministers, who last month conducted a fact-finding tour of Arab capitals. A report of their discussions with Arab leaders has reached Jerusalem.

In another departure from known Syrian positions, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Damascus does not view an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a precondition for starting peace talks, and supports mutual security guarantees for both Israel and the Arab states.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn also expressed their support for a noncoercive international conference which would enable direct negotiations, but blasted Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal for a negotiating forum headed by the two superpowers. Mubarak said that such a forum would only result in unnecessary polarization between the sides, with the Middle East ultimately turning into an arena for East-West rivalry.

Both Mubarak and Husayn also indicated that it would be wiser to leave Syria out of the initial round of talks.

Mubarak revealed that a few months ago he had intended to come to Jerusalem to meet with Shamir, but decided not to following Shamir's statements against withdrawal from the territories, in support of more settlements and against any concessions which would make the summit possible. In Cairo this week, Mubarak refused Foreign Minister Moshe Arens's suggestion that he meet with Shamir.

Husayn said he has no intention of re-entering the West Bank under any circumstances. He said that the West Bank had been an enormous economic burden on Jordan, which had invested over $2 billion there. He intends devoting resources in the future to development of the East Bank.

Husayn added that his sole interest in the West Bank now is in safeguarding the Moslem holy places in East Jerusalem.

Both Mubarak and Husayn spoke disparagingly of the PLO. Mubarak told the EC ministers that the PLO could not stop the intifadah [uprising] even if it wanted to. He urged the five permanent members of the Security Council to launch informal talks with the sides involved on the convening of an international conference, and said that such diplomatic activity might persuade the residents of the territories to curtail the uprising.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 February in a similar report by 'Aqiva Eldar on pages 1 and 8 adds: "King Husayn and President Mubarak explained the opposition of PLO leaders, especially Faruq Qaddumi, to finding a solution to the conflict. They know that 'Arafat is the only Palestinian leader not living in the territories acceptable to all the inhabitants, and that there is no doubt that he would be elected in free elections. Qaddumi and his colleagues know that if the conflict is solved they will lose their status and funds, and are therefore not interested either in peace or even a Palestinian state."]

Mubarak also raised the idea that the Palestinians be represented at peace talks in a joint Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Husayn appeared reluctant to represent the Palestinians, although he did say that he would be willing to consider it if the PLO explicitly requested it.

Mubarak said that a confederation between the West Bank and Jordan is essential. Husayn said he would consider a federation if it were approved by a West Bank referendum.

Mubarak said the Palestinian demand for the "right of return" was totally unrealistic, and would have to be solved by means of financial compensation and resettlement in Arab countries. He said that the superpowers and the Arab world would have to bear the cost of solving the refugee problem.

Inner Cabinet Approves Agreement on Tabah

TA2602123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] A short time ago the Inner Cabinet approved the agreement on Tabah. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that only Minister Ari'el Sharon objected to the proposal, while Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i abstained.

Negotiations between Israel and Egypt on the financial arrangements and political problems are continuing at the moment at the Aviya Sonesta Hotel. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports from Tabah that the Egyptian delegation wants to take over control of the area and station Egyptian Police units in the enclave even today, while Israel wants to postpone that move until 15 March. The U.S. delegation headed by Abraham Sofaer is mediating between the sides.

Our correspondent adds that the Egyptian delegation headed by Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan arrived at the Aviya Sonesta Hotel early this morning. The Egyptian minister toured Elat while awaiting the arrival from Jerusalem of the Israeli delegation headed by Re'uven Merhav, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Our correspondent also notes that hotel owner Eli Paposhado is currently negotiating the remuneration settlement; meanwhile, Liron Nelson, owner of the resort village, told our correspondent a few minutes ago that he had not yet signed the agreement with the Egyptians, who insist on their offer of $1.15 million for the village.

Israel's Ambassador to Cairo Prof Shim'on Shamir arrived in Tabah this morning after driving from Cairo. Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has also arrived in Tabah. The two ambassadors are taking part in the political negotiations about the procedures to determine the border line and the implementation of the Egyptian presence in the area. Fifteen Egyptian journalists, including television crews, arrived in Tabah this morning for the first time and proceeded to go on a tour of Elat.

Agreements Signed 26 Feb

TA2602212189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] At Tabah this evening Israel and Egypt signed the agreements concerning the transfer of sovereignty in the area to Egypt. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Israel and Egypt agreed on the border demarcation that will be implemented on 15 March. It has also been determined that all the compensation and payments by Egypt are to be paid by that date. Also signed were an agreement concerning the entrance arrangements for Israeli tourists into Tabah and an agreement concerning payments to the owners of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel and the Tabah resort village.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a following the signing ceremony that his ministry will do everything possible to turn Tabah into an example of cooperation between the two nations.

Shamir Regrets Loss of Tabah

TA2602213489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening expressed regret over the fact that Israel has lost Tabah. He noted that in the past he had demanded taking advantage of the clause enabling a process of conciliation in the Tabah issue. Mr Shamir believes that the conciliation would have enabled us to retain Tabah. The prime minister spoke to our correspondent Yo'av Aviv at a Likud activists' convention in Haifa.

Mr Shamir said that President Herzog will bring him messages from prominent world leaders he met in Japan during Emperor Hirohito's funeral.

Mr Shamir rejected the claim of Egyptian President Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn that his positions prevent progress in peace negotiations. The prime minister expressed the hope that Mubarak and Husayn will change their views so that it will be possible to reach a peace arrangement in our region.

Details of Pact Reported

TA2702101389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 89 p 2

["Tabah Accord"—Document—POST headline]

[Text] The agreement signed yesterday between Israel and Egypt on access to Tabah stipulates the following arrangements:

—Israelis will be able to enter Tabah with valid passports, or with special passports issued by the Interior Ministry, which will be valid only for entry into Egypt or with collective group/family passports covering up to 25 people.

—Entry to the whole of south Sinai will be permitted with no visas or stamps required. Exit and entry registration forms must be filled upon leaving and entering, and the visitor may choose whether immigration authorities stamp his passport or registration form.

—Egypt will establish a second border checkpoint one km from the Tabah border passing. No entry fees will be levied to visitors who travel less than one km from the border point—that is, visitors to the Tabah enclave.

—There will be no customs check at the Tabah crossing in both directions except for "random spot checks of suspicious persons."

—The Sonesta Hotel will maintain a 24-hour, two-way currency exchange in Israeli and Egyptian currencies. Shekels collected by the Sonesta will be converted by the Bank of Israel to U.S. dollars.

—Vehicles including service trucks and rented cars that enter at the Tabah crossing point and stay within the one km distance will be registered and labelled for multiple entry. Egyptian car insurance for 14 days or longer will be issued at first, although eventually the Sonesta is expected to carry regional car insurance for the Tabah area, rendering separate car insurance for the area unnecessary.

—The border terminal will operate for 18 hours a day, between 6 a.m. and midnight.

Tourism Minister Sees 'Good Signals' From Jordan
TA2702095189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat by Razi Barqay within the "It Is All Talk" program on 27 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Barqay] We have almost lost Tabah, and we are going to talk with the tourism minister on various aspects of this affair. Good morning, Gid'on Pat.

[Pat] Good morning.

[Barqay] Can we set up a tripartite tourist attraction: Tabah, Al-'Aqabah, Elat?

[Pat] We certainly can, but at this stage we are talking about the Aviya Sonesta Hotel and the Tabah area. If the Egyptians agree to continue a direct tourism link between Elat and the Aviya Sonesta Hotel—if they appreciate the services we will provide them and understand that they should avoid wild competition over prices and attractions that are unacceptable in Israel—both they and us, especially they, will benefit.

Otherwise, I see the Aviya Sonesta Hotel as isolated in the desert, cut off from its natural support base. In such a situation, the area will not have a future. [passage omitted]

Immediately upon assuming office I started dealing with the possibility of setting up a good fence between us and Jordan in the area where Al-'Aqabah meets Elat. We could then offer tourists from abroad a package of three countries: Israel, Egypt, and Jordan—especially Petra, which tourists are interested in seeing.

[Barqay] Did you confer with Jordanian officials over this good fence?

[Pat] Had I conferred with them I would not have told you; still, I have not conferred with them. It was an idea I relayed in different ways to the Jordanian side. I am very encouraged by the reactions. They are looking into it, as are we. There is no reason why it should not be implemented. There is a good fence at the Allenby Bridge; why should there not be one at Al-'Aqabah, too?

[Barqay] What you are saying is that there have been encouraging signals from the Jordanian side.

[Pat] Very, very good signals have come through foreign embassies. The Jordanians heard about my announcement. I did not know about it, but it was published in the FINANCIAL TIMES and the HERALD TRIBUNE, and it appears that they received the message. It will probably take time, but it is certainly possible that it will be implemented. It will add another tourist attraction for people visiting Elat, but it is certainly possible that in the future we will be able to present a broader plan made up of three countries for the tourist visiting Israel.

[Barqay] Are you referring to a land or sea crossing between us and Jordan?

[Pat] No, one should assume that the Egyptians will try to organize a sea crossing between Tabah and Al-'Aqabah. They already have a sea crossing between Al-Nuwaybi' and Al-'Aqabah. I am talking about a land crossing. The day might come when tourists living in Al-'Aqabah—which has not developed impressive tourist sites—could enter Israel, even if only to enjoy one night at an Israeli hotel in Elat. The day might come when the Jordanians will permit our tourists and Israelis to cross into Jordan for a visit, as I said before, mainly to Petra, which is some 80 km from Al-'Aqabah. [passage omitted]

Shamir Boycott of UK's Waldegrave Denied
TA2702053089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister's spokesman, Yosi Ahime'ir, says the prime minister will not meet with British Minister of State William Waldegrave, who arrives in Israel tomorrow.

Ahime'ir denied the report in the British SUNDAY TELEGRAPH that the prime minister is boycotting Waldegrave because of recent comments by him comparing PLO actions to the struggle by Shamir against the British mandate force in Palestine. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 February in a page 10 report by Asher Wallfish adds: "Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and Minister-Without-Portfolio Ehud Olmert are apparently the only two Likud cabinet ministers who will receive Waldegrave."]

USSR Official on Formation of Commercial Ties
TA2702103389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] "I believe that steps will be taken toward setting up commercial ties even before the renewal of diplomatic relations," Prof Radomir Bogdanov, the deputy chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, said yesterday. Bogdanov, who is currently visiting Israel as the

guest of the Israel Foreign Relations Council, told reporters that these relations might be wider in range than those that existed before relations were severed in 1967.

Bogdanov said that during his current visit he has had talks with Israeli businessmen on the possibility of forming commercial ties. He said he was especially interested in solar energy projects, because the USSR has 200 sunny days annually in many areas. "I was very impressed with what I saw in kibbutzim, at the Weizmann Institute of Science, and at industrial plants that I visited." He said that joint projects might be set up by the two countries, adding that the fact that there are many Russian-speaking people in Israel would facilitate the development of trade ties.

Bogdanov lectured yesterday to members of the Foreign Policy Council about political changes in the USSR and stressed the change from a policy of confrontation to one of cooperation. When asked why his country has conditioned the renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel on the convening of an international conference, he replied: "There is no ultimatum or condition." He also said that he received the impression that there is a growing opinion in Israel that it should start a dialogue with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Palestinian 'Army' Claims Kidnapping of Soldier

TA2702133089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] An unidentified person phoned the offices of AFP in Jerusalem today and announced, on behalf of the Palestinian Arab Army, that his organization had kidnapped the soldier Avi Sasportas and is holding him in the territories. Speaking in Arabic, the man said his organization would publicize its demands very soon and would release a video cassette of the kidnapped soldier within 48 hours. The man emphasized that his organization is in no way connected with the PLO.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that no organization such as that described in the telephone call is known of. Nevertheless, the PLO announced some time ago that it would be setting up quasi-military units in the territories, which would be called the Popular Palestinian Army.

'Terrorist,' 2 SLA Soldiers Killed in Lebanon

TA2702131489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Light weapons and RPG's were fired this morning at a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in the eastern sector. The post is located 6 km east of Hasbayya. The SLA returned the fire. A terrorist was killed in the incident. A joint communique issued by two terrorist organizations in Al-Biqa' states that one terrorist was killed in the incident and another is missing. The organizations are the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

In another incident in southern Lebanon, in the Jazzin area north of the security zone, an SLA position was ambushed with light weapons and RPG's. As a result, two soldiers of Lahd's force were killed and two others were wounded and evacuated to a hospital. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz and 'Amos Har'el point out that Lahd's force is made up of Christian soldiers stationed in the Jazzin area outside the security zone who receive military and civilian assistance from South Lebanese Army headquarters.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Rafah Residents Wounded

TA2402211089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Three Arab residents were wounded by IDF soldiers' fire in riots in Rafah today. Two of them have already been released from the hospital.

It was learned today that the commander of the Southern Command signed orders that will oblige Gaza Strip vehicles to be equipped with special tags for movement into Israel.

2 Gaza Residents Wounded

TA2502180289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Two Gaza Strip residents were wounded today in clashes with the army. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in the course of the disturbances that occurred in Rafah, a 6-year-old girl sustained severe injuries. She was transferred to the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer. The other wounded Gaza resident is a youth who was shot in the leg. The IDF is investigating the circumstances in which the girl was wounded.

The curfew which was imposed yesterday on the village of Bayt Hanun remains in effect.

Update on 24-25 Feb Incidents

TA2602100989 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Feb 89 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shim'on Elqabetz, Fa'iz 'Abbas, Mikhal Qedem, and Oron Me'iri]

[Excerpt] Three people was wounded yesterday in Ramallah and Bethlehem by IDF gunfire. At the end of the week there were 16 casualties in the Gaza Strip, including 6-year-old Lulu Abu Daghir, who was shot in the head and transferred in serious condition to Tel Hashomer Hospital. Four firebombs were hurled Friday night at buildings in Moshav Gane Tal in the Gush Qatif area, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage.

A No 641 bus traveling from Netanya to Tel Aviv was stoned last night near the Basra Junction in the Sharon, smashing its windshield. A police vehicle that arrived at

the scene was also stoned. A large police force headed by Ya'aqov Terner, commander of the Central Command, searched the area and made several arrests.

Arab sources reported that there were clashes between the army and stone throwers in Ramallah's Radyo Street yesterday morning. Two stone throwers were slightly injured. In Bethlehem, there was a procession that developed into a violent confrontation in which a 45-year-old woman was shot in the stomach; she is in serious condition.

Three people were wounded during demonstrations in the Al-Shati' refugee camp at the end of the week. There were two casualties in the Al-Mughazi refugee camp, including Mahmud Rabih, 4. Six were wounded in Rafah, two from live ammunition and two from plastic bullets.

At the Jabalyah refugee camp, Bandaq Mahid, 4, was hit by a bullet in his right hand. Wahab Sindhi, 14, of the village of Asqalah, was shot in the chest and hospitalized at Al-Ahali Hospital. Arab sources said that at least two others were wounded during riots in Gaza. Security forces imposed a curfew on the village of Bayt Hanun following the large number of incidents. [passage omitted]

Suspected Collaborator Wounded

TA2602120389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] A masked local resident entered Gaza's Al-Shifa' Hospital this morning and shot and lightly wounded one of its staff. Some reports say the injured man was Al-Shifa''s chief administrator, 38-year-old 'Abd al-Ra'uf Khalis, who is suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

However, the army spokesman could not confirm this. The spokeswoman at Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital denied reports that the injured man was brought there for treatment. The police have opened an investigation into the shooting. [passage omitted]

1 Youth Killed in Gaza 26 Feb

TA2602144289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] A 20-year-old youth from the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza was killed today by a gunshot wound in his chest. His body was transferred to the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the youth's death. Another youth from the same neighborhood was brought wounded to the hospital. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that there were disturbances in the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza today.

Details on 'Terrorist' Squad

TA2602154589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The security services and the Valleys' subdistrict police force have uncovered another terrorist squad whose members belong to Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC. The squad included seven members, all of them from Arab villages within the Green Line. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that today the Haifa Magistrates' Court permitted the detentions to be publicized. Among those detained are a husband and wife, Mahazumi and Yusira Bassam from Nazareth, parents of five children.

Another of those detained is Muhammad Abu Tur from Jerusalem. Our correspondent reports that some of those detained belong to Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], and some of them were released within the framework of the Jibril prisoner exchange deal. They were found in possession of electronic and photographic equipment that had been purchased for them.

The husband from Nazareth was actually detained approximately 2 months ago at Ben-Gurion Airport when he returned from Europe. It is suspected that he directed the activity of the squad for at least a year. His wife was detained following his interrogation. She claimed in court that her husband framed her. Our correspondent recalls that another squad was uncovered in the Valleys' area approximately 1 month ago. The police attributed the arson in the Kibbutz Barqa'i factory, among other things, to that squad.

IDF Demolishes House

TA2602173389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Today the army demolished the level of the house in the Nabulus casbah from which the stone was thrown at reserve soldier Beni Meisner, killing him. The windows of the houses facing the alley were boarded up and the alley in which the incident took place will be sealed. The curfew in Nabulus continues and the operation aimed at apprehending the assailants is continuing.

A short time ago a No 1 Egged bus was stoned on Hanevi'im St. in Jerusalem. The window of the bus was shattered and one passenger was slightly wounded. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that a 16-year old youth was detained.

Suspects in Firebombing Held

TA2602201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The Valleys' subdistrict police force has detained 15 inhabitants from the territories on suspicion of being involved in throwing 3 Molotov cocktails on the Haifa-Nazareth road 2 days ago. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that one of the bottles exploded and ignited, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Border Policeman Stabbed

TA2702095689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] A border policeman was stabbed a short time ago in the Al-Birah market during a routine patrol. The policeman received first aid and was taken to the hospital. He was described as suffering slight to medium wounds. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the policeman's partners raced after the assailant, who was detained after being shot and wounded. The security forces imposed a curfew on the scene of the incident.

Our correspondent points out that the Al-Birah market area has been the scene of attacks on Israelis in the past. Two Israelis, a soldier and a civilian, have been killed there.

More on 26 Feb Incidents

TA2702102389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 89 p 4

[Report by Shim'on Elqabetz, Oren Kohen, and Mikhal Qedem]

[Excerpts] Twenty-year-old Ahmad 'Abd Makhram died instantly after being shot in the heart by IDF soldiers while riots were being dispersed in Gaza's Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. In the incident, Hasan Wadah (28) and Ahmad Hasan (10) were shot in the arm and hospitalized at Gaza's Al-Shifa' Hospital. A curfew was clamped on the neighborhood. [passage omitted]

Arab sources have reported that in clashes in the Rafah refugee camp, IDF soldiers and border policemen entered the Beersheba school, beating students and spraying tear gas. The sources said that at least 20 were injured. Rafah sources reported yesterday that 25 people who had been involved in clashes with the army were treated at UNRWA clinics. A curfew was imposed on the refugee camp. Many students were detained for interrogation.

Yesterday it was decided to close down the 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni school in Khan Yunus after numerous disturbances. The total number of schools closed in the Gaza Strip now stands at seven.

Muhammad Baraqat (45) from the Ramallah District village of Ramin was wounded by a blunt object yesterday. Baraqat found the object, picked it up, and sustained burns on his hand. He was treated at a Ramallah hospital and later released.

At the Qalandiyah refugee camp youths set fire to goods made in Israel. Violent clashes occurred in several places between residents and IDF soldiers, but no casualties have been reported.

A curfew was imposed yesterday on the township of Salfit from early morning until noon. During the curfew, security forces removed Civil Administration furniture and equipment. The offices were moved to Qalqilyah.

4 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA2702132489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Four youngsters who threw stones at IDF troops were wounded this afternoon as they were dispersed. Two of them were in Jabalyah and were taken to the local Al-Ahali Hospital. The other two were in Khan Yunus and were taken to Al-Nasir Hospital.

A curfew was clamped on Gaza's Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood this morning following yesterday's severe riots in which one youngster was killed and another was wounded.

The security forces uprooted trees along the road leading to the village of Biddiya in the Samaria District this morning. The trees were uprooted because stones have recently been thrown at cars from this spot.

CNN Interviews King Husayn in Tokyo

JN2502214689 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] His majesty the king has said that the Middle East problem does not need any new initiatives, adding that what is needed is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242. In an interview with his majesty in Tokyo by the Cable News Network, CNN, his majesty added that the PLO has fulfilled all the demands for participation in an international conference on peace in the Middle East. His majesty also said that the world cannot be kept a hostage by a group of short-sighted extremists.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Joining me under the television lights is CNN's world affairs correspondent Ralph Begleiter. Your Majesty, thank you for being with us here today. You indicated when we chatted with you the other night that you have been worried for some years about the U.S. role and about the prospects, but that you had, in your words, great faith in President Bush. What in that conversation you had with him the other night gives you that kind of faith?

[King Husayn] It wasn't purely the conversation I had with the President the other evening but the fact that I have known (?him) for a number of years. My knowledge of his world experience with the United Nations, his travels to our part of the world, and I believe the mood in the world has caused so much to change over the last year or so, where there is every intention, it would appear to me, to minimize problems that could jeopardize regional stability or world peace. One hopes very much indeed that the Middle East will receive the attention that it deserves.

[Reporter] Are you suggesting in some way that change in the mood in Washington, too, between President Reagan and President Bush—is there something different there?

[Husayn] The difference, I would say, is that President Reagan probably had other priorities. I do not think he was personally engaged with the Middle East problem or with any of the attempts to resolve the problem there. I have a feeling that President Bush knows the area and knows how volatile it is and how dangerous it is, which is a fact, and also that there are many opportunities now which I hope will be pursued.

[Reporter] If you were able to lay out a menu, a prescription, of how the U.S. should proceed now, right now, toward getting the peace process going, what would be your prescription? Special envoy?, what?

[Husayn] No, I wouldn't think a special envoy is necessary. On the other hand, I believe that what should happen, logically, would be to get in touch with all the parties to the conflict. There is already an ongoing dialogue with the PLO. And I would encourage very much the consultations between the five permanent members of the Security Council in a similar way to what happened when they were addressing the Iraq-Iran war, to prepare the ground for an international conference.

[Reporter] Should that conference happen this year?

[Husayn] We certainly hope that it at least should begin this year.

[Reporter] And where it would lead next? Direct talks quickly, or in some future time?

[Husayn] It would lead to negotiations, to implement Security Council Resolution 242 and to resolving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. The participants would be all the countries immediately involved: Jordan; Syria; hopefully Lebanon, if the situation there clears up, and hopefully it will; Egypt; the PLO—the Palestinian dimension has to be addressed by them; they are the representatives of the people of Palestine—and Israel. And I believe that negotiations will hopefully lead to a comprehensive peace in the area.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, we repeatedly heard President Bush and Secretary Baker say that they are not going to be stampeded, that they are not in a hurry. Do you give us some sense that there is need to hurry rather than go to slowly?

[Husayn] I indeed feel that there is need to hurry. I can undersand that they would like to be in touch with all the parties to the conflict before they move, but I hope that this wouldn't take too long [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Our guest on Newsmaker Saturday from Tokyo is King Husayn of Jordan. Your Majesty, while so many of the world's leaders are here, the foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Mr Shevardnadze, has been very busy in the Middle East. He has been in your country just before you left to come here. What do you see is the appropriate role of the Soviet Union? You've described an international peace conference—but how deeply involved can the Soviet Union get?

[Husayn] I believe they can become involved and they should become involved. They are certainly a superpower that has interests in the area and has an interest in peace and stability in that area, as does the United States, not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. And I believe that so much has happened as a result of the new atmosphere that exists between Washington and Moscow.

[Reporter] A moment ago that [as heard] you thought the United States, the Soviet Union, and the other members of the Security Council should negotiate with one another before the international conference begins. What does that involve?

[Husayn] It involves the five permanent members of the Security Council.

[Reporter] But what would they accomplish? Should they work on a settlement in the region or just the process?

[Husayn] No, [word indistict] I believe that the outline is the implementation of 242, territory for peace—territories occupied in June of 1967—and the resolution of the Palestinian problem, securing peace. The elements are all there, all agreed upon, It's a question of when do we move to implement this famous resolution, which was adopted on 2 November 1967?

[Reporter] And what about you, sir? What about a move from you? Why not engage in a step similar to the one Anwar al-Sadat took and remove the barrier of the technical state of war that still exits between your country and Israel?

[Husayn] Because I believe that, with all due respect, the peace between Egypt and Israel did not resolve the problem. I believe that a comprehensive solution is needed. I believe that the Palestinians must be involved as a prime party on the Arab side in resolving the Palestinian problem. It is their cause and their case, and they have now assumed responsibilities directly for their fate and future, and they have met all the demands made of them by the United States to be invited to such a conference.

[Reporter] But you are not prepared to engage in direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel, even preliminarily to a comprehensive solution?

[Husayn] Jordan and Israel, together with all the other parties to the conflict, when the meetings take place in the international conference. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] One question that has never really been resolved is which Palestinians—even though now we have Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO making the statements that they have—which Palestinians do you think can actually get involved in the peace talks there?

[Husayn] When speaking about the Palestinian problem, I am talking about a solution of the problem as a whole—and obviously the PLO is the legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. It is the address to which people refer, both in the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

[Reporter] Coming back to your relationship with President Bush, you were unable—or the United States was unable—to provide you with some weapons Jordan requested during the last administration. There were several attempts made, unsuccessful ones, with Congress. Do you think the new administration will be able to provide Jordan with some of the armaments it requested?

[Husayn] I have no idea. The relationship as we know has become minimal in terms of supplies of arms or equipment from the United States to Jordan as a result of Congress and the Senate adopting this approach. And, so, we have not relied on the United States for the supply of arms (?in the past). And we hope in any event that we will be engaged in a process leading to a final peace in the area that might minimize the requirements in the future for such arms.

[Reporter] But will you be making any requests?

[Husayn] I might if there is a need or if Congress changes attitude. But, as things stand, we are not planning to ask for any arms from the United States.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, let me ask you about a recent proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir for elections in the occupied territories that would lead to a local leadership there. Obviously, in the Israeli point of view, it will be a leadership that could ultimately engage in negotiations on a comprehensive peace. What do you think about that kind of a proposal?

[Husayn] I don't think very highly of such a proposal. I think there are attempts to divide the Palestinians once again between people in the occupied territories and people in the diaspora. And the Palestinians already have a leadership that has met all the requests made of it and the requirements to be invited to an international conference, and has indicated readiness to deal with Israel directly to resolve the problem.

[Reporter] So Israel should negotiate directly with members, with representatives of the PLO?

[Husayn] We can't lose any more time. The situation is very, very volatile....

[Reporter, interrupting] But the idea of elections on the West Bank has no merit at all?

[Husayn] Under Israeli occupation, what kind of elections?

[Reporter] What about the U.S.-PLO dialogue? Where should that head at this point? The U.S. has been very tentative about engaging in those conversations. What they should be talking about?

[Husayn] They should talk about substance, and when I was involved, I was told that the PLO did what it did at the PNC [Palestine National Council], and the statements of Chairman 'Arafat later were very, very clear at Geneva. They would be not only having a dialogue with them, but they would be eligible to be invited to attend the conference that we've been talking about. And I believe that this is what it should be.

[Reporter] I can't help but see this question of an international conference being an endless circle that never quite jells. It is proposed, it is rejected, it is proposed, it is rejected, because there is at any time, there is always someone, be it the Israelis primarily—but the U.S. has never been keen on it—that opposes the

idea. So, if that is not likely to happen, doesn't that require a person such as yourself or others to make individual efforts rather than to keep relying upon an international effort?

[Husayn] Just because of the short-sightedness of some in the area—some extremists. There are extremists on both sides, but they are now in the minority now, hopefully. And I believe that the world should not be held hostage by these extreme, very short-sighted attitudes. And the world must (?wait for us) to begin to resolve this problem once and for all.

[Reporter] What specifically are the keys that have to fit in here to make it work?

[Husayn] Services are not a new problem. This is a problem that has been with us for, well, 21, 22 years (?almost). We have been working at it and we have done everything we could and we have been talking and talking. We don't need new initiatives. The solution is 242, land for peace—is Israel prepared to do that?—and, at the same time resolving the Palestinian problem and establishing peace with all its neighbors. We in Jordan have the longest cease-fire lines and borders with Israel of any Arab state, longer than the borders of the West Bank and Gaza. We are very interested, we are very committed to the cause of a just peace for future generations on both sides.

[Reporter] But you are not committed or interested enough to engage in direct talks, even if they don't lead to an agreement with Israel. Israel can always say there is nobody to talk to out there except the PLO.

[Husayn] This is, excuse my saying so, sir, complete nonsense. We have been talking indirectly. We have been talking in circles for years and years and years, and it's about time we began to really address our responsibilities for the interest of our people who are going to live in that area after us and maybe (?the world).

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you talk about a dialogue and multi-party dialogue in some cases. Israel held elections recently, and yet the same people seem to keep coming back into office. Do you think that, perhaps, the real prospect holds with a new generation in Israel, of people who have tired of this ongoing hostility?

[Husayn] I believe that the polls that we are hearing about are encouraging in a way. This suggests that, certainly that before [words indistinct] the population in Israel now is for a dialogue with the PLO—sorry to use the word dialogue—and for attempts to move towards a solution. So, maybe [words indistinct] this will affect the leadership in Israel and cause it to rethink somehow.

[Reporter] You once described the PLO leadership, when you failed to reach an agreement with the PLO on how to conduct a talk, as being unreliable, that you couldn't rely on their word. Have they changed? Has the PLO changed now, can you rely on their word, and [words indistinct].

[Husayn] When we decided to disengage, we had finally come to the conclusion that all that Palestinians sought was to return their identity and to have the right to speak for themselves. Once we did that, they surprisingly moved in the direction that we have been trying to get them to move to over many, many years, and they have come very, very clearly and have answered all that was asked of them, and they are acting in a manner that I personally am very, very happy with. And I believe that our relations are now on a far better foundation than they ever were.

[Reporter] And you are ready to reengage now, you, as the leader of Jordan? You said you disengaged—ready to get back?

[Husayn] No, I'm talking about the disengagement with the West Bank, which [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Information Ministry Bans Salman Rushdie Book

JN2702072889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Trad [as published] al-Fayiz, secretary general of the Ministry of Information, has said that strict instructions have been issued to all border posts and libraries banning the entry of and dealings with the book "The Satanic Verses" written by the British author of Indian origin, Salman Rushdie, because the book abuses Islam and Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

Iran, U.S. Said Holding Hostage Negotiations

NC2602063789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY quotes a senior Hizballah official as saying that the Syrian leadership has supplied Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib with weapons which the Syrian forces had earlier confiscated from Hizballah. The weapons include rifles, mortars, jeeps, and 106-mm guns.

The official added that the majority of Hizballah leaders, both Lebanese and Iranians, have left Tehran via Damascus at intervals on instructions of Ayatollah Montazeri. He said that Hizballah no longer has any military activity in Beirut's southern suburb apart from maintaining security and guarding against the possible assassination of some Hizballah officials.

The Hizballah official announced that many of the party's gunmen left for the South over the past 2 weeks to reinforce fighters there against the Amal Movement which is mobilizing its forces in Iqlim al-Tuffah to prepare for a decisive battle to settle matters in its favor.

The Hizballah official also reported that a high-level Iranian delegation is currently visiting West Beirut and is conducting secret negotiations with the Americans for the release of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Army, Lebanese Forces Issue Statement on Pact

NC2402203989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces and Army commands have announced a final and in-depth agreement on removing the causes of the clashes that occurred in the past week and on a mechanism to organize future relations between the Army and the Lebanese Forces. A statement released in Al-Yarzah this evening said that a meeting was held in the office of His Excellency Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in the Army headquarters.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Army Command and Lebanese Forces leaders to discuss the causes of the clashes that occurred over the past week. A final and in-depth agareement was reached on removing the causes of these clashes and on a mechanism to organize future ties in firmly and clearly. As a result of the meeting a permanent political-military committee has been formed and will begin work tomorrow, Saturday. The first task of the committee is to implement the agreement and prevent a recurrence of the clashes.

'Awn Defines Demands

NC2502123389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] A few hours before the agreement was declared between the Army command and Lebanese Forces in Al-Yarzah, General 'Awn told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayah that his demands are clear and not subject to any frivolous negotiations. He insisted that his demands must be implemented to the letter. He said that there is a legitimate government that must extend its authority in the areas under its control, primarily to win the world's confidence in it. He recalled the following demands:

1. To Assemble Lebanese Forces personnel in their barracks as a first step and to halt all practices that are still in operation in the areas of their deployment.

2. To allow for the assimilation of honest resistance personnel into the army.

3. To stop illegal collection of money and taxes.

4. To open the political arena for the Lebanese Forces to play their role.

Regarding administrative Beirut and withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces beyond Nahr al-Kalb, 'Awn said that this step is taken for granted, particularly since the regional and international climates favor establishing a greater Beirut under the control of the legitimate Lebanese authority.

Reportage on Reactions Against Salman Rushdie

RFL Notes Hizballah Statement

NC2402202389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Hizballah affirmed today that it will do all it can to execute Khomeyni's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of the book "The Satanic Verses."

Religious Leaders Back Khomeyni

NC2502081289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] In Ba'labakk, His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi has stated that Salman Rushdie's book constitutes a flagrant challenge to our beliefs and reflects the first cultural confrontation between Islam and the West. He termed Imam Khomeyni's death sentence against Rushdie as a new revolution to alerting Muslims that their own good lies in relying on Islam and not in leaning toward the East and West.

For his part, brother Husayn al-Musawi said the Salman Rushdie episode is a propaganda and intellectual war distorting the Islamic revolution and striking at the Islam of [Prophet] Muhammad and Imam 'Ali, may peace be upon them, at the hands of this apostate. He appealed to all Muslims to carry out the imam's edict. Brother al-Musawi referred in this respect to the positions of Al-Azhar imam and others, pointing out that these positions reflect their hatred of Imam Khomeyni, may God save him, and adding that they should have faced up to these arrogant conspiracies, but they did not.

His Eminence Shaykh 'Ali al-'Afi said the episode does not reflect Rushdie's personal belief but is the work of international intelligence. He noted that Rushdie's repentance will not help him, because the imam had already sentenced him to death.

The group of Lebanese ulema in Lebanon has cabled the great Imam Khomeyni, may God save him, and his heir, Ayatollah Montazeri, putting all their capabilities at their disposal in the face of the malicious onslaught by the Jewish arrogance. This arrogance is now assuming the task of defending Rushdie as a cover to undermine all the values of faith in God, his prophets, and his books.

Group Sets Date for Execution

NC2602092789 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 26 (AFP)—An "emergency meeting" held in the Lebanese capital has set a target date of March 15 by which to carry out Iran's death threat against Salman Rushdie, an anonymous caller said here Sunday.

"All the Moslem revolutionary forces of the world have decided to apply the fatwa (religious decree)" of Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, he said in a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here.

The "emergency meeting" selected one group, identified in code, to execute "the criminal Salman Rushdie between February 27 and March 15," he added, without specifying when the decision was taken.

Using more codes, the caller gave instructions for other groups to coordinate the killing.

He also spoke of the "friend of Iran in Japan," an apparent reference to an anonymous caller in Tokyo who earlier this week issued a death threat against British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Ayatollah Khomeyni called on February 14 for the execution of Mr. Rushdie, a Moslem-born British author, because of his latest novel "The Satanic Verses," which many Moslems have condemned as offensive to Islam. Mr. Rushdie has since gone into hiding in Britain under police protection.

Execution Linked to Hostages

NC2602110189 Paris AFP in English 1036 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb 26 (AFP)—An "emergency meeting" held in the Lebanese capital has set a target date of March 15 by which to carry out Iran's death threat against Salman Rushdie, an anonymous caller said here Sunday.

The caller, reading a communique, also said that pro-Iranian groups holding Western hostages in Lebanon had decided to "freeze" any plans to release their captives because of the Rushdie affair. [passage omitted]

The caller said that the hostages' issue was now linked to international reactions over "The Satanic Verses."

The decision to "freeze" the issue was taken by the Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine and the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, he said.

"The fate of the hostages held in Lebanon awaits the decision of Imam Khomeyni and of the free Moslems in the world," he said, adding that a photograph of one of the hostages would be distributed later.

Nine U.S. nationals and three Britons are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

The caller also said that the Moslem revolutionary forces in the world had decided to relaunch their "jihad," or holy war.

"It was decided to relaunch the sacred Islamic jihad, with legal operations, against countries and groups which harm Islam," he said. "The first target will be Great Britain."

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which claimed responsibility for the January 1987 abduction of three U.S. academics, hinted Thursday that their release could be delayed because of the Rushdie affair.

Meanwhile in Tokyo on Sunday, Japan's Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told Iranian Vice President Mostafa Mir-Salim that Tokyo "strongly wished that the execution order would be withdrawn so that Iran's external relations would be restored".

Mr Mir-Salim, who attended Emperoro Hirohito's funeral on Friday, replied that the Rushdie affair was not simply a question of freedom of expression but "blasphemy to the Islamic world as a whole". He asked Japan to convey this sentiment to the West.

Ministry officials said Japan was not planning to pull its diplomatic personnel out of Tehran, because it was more effective to keep them there, although they suggested a planned visit by Mr Uno next month should be rescheduled.

Britain and its 11 European Economic Community partners have decided to withdraw their top diplomats from Tehran in protest at Ayatollah Khomeyni's death threat.

Meanwhile a United Arab Emirates newspaper on Sunday reported that Mosad, Israel's secret service, had offered protection Mr Rushdie protection.

GULF NEWS, quoting unidentified Western diplomatic sources in India, said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's government was trying to persuade Britain to accept the plan.

"The Israeli secret service, Mosad, has offered life-long protection to the British author," the paper said in a report from New Delhi.

"According to Western diplomatic sources here, Mosad has prepared a detailed plan to smuggle Rushdie from his hideout in London and into Israel," the report said.

GULF NEWS said that Mr Shamir's government agreed to the plan despite opposition from moderates in the Israeli cabinet who felt it could jeopardise a Soviet peace initiative in the Middle East.

"Knowledgeable diplomats in Delhi believe that the Shamir government is feverishly trying to persuade London to cooperate and that Britain might eventually find it sensible to get rid of the issue," the report said.

The semi-official AL ITTIHAD newspaper, in an editorial published Sunday, hinted support for Ayatollah Khomeyni's death sentence, in the first such media commentary in the Gulf.

The newspaper, which maintains close ties to official circles in the UAE, denounced as insufficient what it said were Islamic calls to refute through literary means Mr Rushdie's contentions against Islam. It also described the Indian-born author as a "renegade".

More on Execution Order

NC2602093389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] A group calling itself the Organization of Islamic Revolutionary Forces in the World [munazzamat al-qiwa al-thawriyah al-islamiyah fi al-'alam] distributed a statement in Beirut today saying that the order has been issued to execute British writer Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses" during the next 2 weeks, in accordance with Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [religious ruling].

Anti-Rushdie Protest Staged

NC2602125189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Comprehensive Civil Resistance [Al-Muqanah al-Madaniyah al-Shamilah] said that the issue involving the author of the book "The Satanic Verses" by the Western world, which pretends to weep over human rights, constitutes a clear and obvious condemnation of the Western world, which has persisted in suppressing, humiliating, and degrading mankind.

The statement supported Imam Khomeyni's edict to kill the book's author, describing it as sound and fair. The statement said that "The Satanic Verses" is not an ideological book that debates the principles and thoughts of Islam.

Meanwhile, in the course of the protest against "The Satanic Verses", a demonstration was staged in Beirut's southern suburb today, which included a denouncement of the crime and the attack on Islam and Muslims.

Fadlallah on Khomeyni Ruling

NC2702061789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] In an interview with the French newspaper LIBERATION, scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah announced that Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [religious ruling] allowing the shedding of Salman Rushdie's blood is in agreement with Islamic shari'a. He said this is an injunction imposed on all Muslims.

Cabinet Decision Required To Open Port Crossing

NC2502142589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Commenting on reports that there is an intention to open the port crossing point, a government source pointed out that this step requires a decision by the cabinet which is led by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Port Crossing Reopens 27 Feb

NC2702054489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The port crossing was opened to all citizens and all types of vehicles at 0600 today in implementation of an order by General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and army commander. An army engineering unit had previously removed mines, barriers, and obstacles. [passage omitted]

The Museum-Al-Barbir crossing will remain open for pedestrian movement and for tourist vehicles only. Supply vehicles trucks, and tankers will be diverted to the port crossing. As for the remaining crossings, operations will continue to function as before. [passage omitted]

Hijacker Given Life Sentence for 1987 Killing

AU2402105189 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Lausanne, Switzerland, Feb 24 (AFP)— Muhammed Hariri, accused of hijacking an Air Afrique airliner in July 1987 and of murdering a French passenger, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Federal Court here Friday.

Mr. Hariri, a Lebanese Shi'ite, was found guilty of killing Xavier Beaulieu as he attempted to divert to Beirut a DC-10 on a flight from Brazzaville to Paris. He was captured as the plane made a stopover at Geneva. The prosecution had demanded a life sentence for Mr. Hariri, who said Wednesday that he was "ready to die" for his religion.

Central Bank Governor, Others To Stand Trial

NC2402072389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] A government source has stated that Central Bank Governor Dr Edmund Na'im will soon be referred to the judiciary. It has been learned that Na'im is accused of mismanagement, negligence, abuse of powers, and tampering with some financial institutions. Dr Na'im has said he knows nothing about these charges.

Our correspondent has learned that other officials will be referred to the judiciary on the same charges.

Bank Employees Protest Arrest

NC2402092789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Employees of the Central Bank will go on strike today to protest General Michel 'Awn's determination to refer Central Bank Governor Edmund Na'im to the judiciary. The Central Bank Employees' Union Council has issued the following statement:

Certain radios have cited a government source as saying that the Central Bank governor will be referred to the judiciary on the basis of false charges alleging an abuse of power. Consequently, the council has decided, as an expression of protest against the report, to observe a 24-hour strike at the main office and the other branches beginning this morning. It is regrettable that the governor should be rewarded with such reports, because he is the man who has safeguarded the unity of the Bank and country, and who has maintained a healthy monetary system. It is hoped that the statement issued by the government source does not represent the official authorities' stand.

The council will remain in session to follow up any further developments.

Governor Seeks Presidency

NC2602073689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Central Bank Governor Dr Edmund Na'im has affirmed that he is a candidate for the Presidency. He remarked that the campaign which General 'Awn is conducting against him is designed to prevent him from becoming president. Na'im declared that the political balance is in his favor and announced his belief that he is capable of leading the country. He said that the charges leveled against him are ridiculous. He added that if there are any accusations they should be raised as a matter of civil, not criminal, law. Dr Na'im said that the campaign against him has borne no fruit.

Army Helicopters Moved to Defense Ministry

NC2502121989 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Army command sources in Al-Yarzah have affirmed that 40 Army helicopters have been moved from the Adma air base and from the playground in Juniyah and deployed around the Defense Ministry. They also said that three helicopters were damaged during last week's clashes.

SLA Arrests Member for Killing Irish Soldier

NC2702071789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] According to military sources in the South, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has arrested one of its soldiers on suspicion that he killed an Irish UNIFIL soldier. The sources, cited by REUTER, report that SLA Commander Major General Antoine Lahd has promised to punish the SLA soldier if interrogation reveals that he violated orders.

On the other hand, SLA official 'Aql Hashim has accused the UNIFIL of being unable to supervise its deployment area and added: We have been subjected for 2 weeks to an increasing number of attacks from areas close to UNIFIL aras, particularly in Haddathah.

Clashes Between SLA, Fundamentalists Reported

NC2502195189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are currently raging between South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops and fundamentalist groups along the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines.

Fighting Eases

NC2602064589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The violent clashes that have been occurring throughout the night between the SLA and the Islamic extremist organization members along the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines eased this morning. Heavy-caliber artillery and rockets were used in the fighting.

Nasirite Group Members Wounded

NC2602152189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] More than five members of the Nasirite Popular Organization have been wounded on the 'Ayn al-Mir front, east of Sidon, when the SLA shelled joint Palestinian-leftist positions which the Palestinians were trying to fortify.

Commando Unit Attacks SLA

NC2702112389 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, Feb 27 (AFP)—A Palestinian-Lebanese commando unit early Monday attacked a position near here of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), prompting Israeli reprisals that left three people wounded and two in custody, security sources said.

The clash between the SLA and the commandos, which occurred within the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon, caused several casualties, the sources added.

A 75-member Israeli-SLA patrol aboard tanks and armoured vehicles soon afterwards moved seven kilometers (fourt miles) north of the zone and carried out a two-hour search operation during which two civilians were arrested, the souces said.

Three civilians were injured in the operation when Israeli artillery shelled a farm near the village of Libayya before and after the incursion, according to security sources.

The Syrian National Social Party, a Lebanese leftist group, and the Popular Struggle Front, a Palestinian organization, claimed responsibility for the 30 minute rocket and machine gun attack on the SLA near the Zimrayyah passage at the northern edge of the security zone.

SLA and Israeli forces jointly patrol the 850-square-kilometer (340-square-mile) zone along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Another Palestinian guerrilla group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, last Thursday said it killed or wounded several Israeli soldiers and SLA militiamen as it tried to infiltrate northern Israel from southern Israel. SLA radio confirmed the foiled infiltration bid but did not report any casualties.

Syrians Intensify Security at Beirut Airport
NC2602171589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] According to Lebanese security sources, the Syrian intelligence apparatus at Beirut International Airport has recently intensified security measures and is keeping close watch over arrivals to Lebanon on the pretext of thwarting any smuggling of arms or goods to Syria via Lebanon. The same sources affirmed that these measures are being taken following reports that Syrian opposition members have recently intensified their attempts to smuggle arms to Syria via Beirut Airport.

Syrians Prevent Army From Entering Sil'ata Port
NC2702100989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Following the decision to hand over the ports to the legitimate government, units of the Lebanese Army's 7th brigade, which are stationed in the scouts center in Smar Jubayl, attempted to enter the Sil'ata port to implement the decision. The Syrian Occupation Army, however, prevented them in this action. Following this incident, a state of alert was declared in the ranks of the 7th brigade. No report indicating that the Lebanese Army entered the port has been received.

Syrian Army Fires at 2 Israeli Phantom Jets
JN2602144289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Security sources in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' have stated that the Syrian Army today, Sunday, fired two SAM-7 missiles at two Israeli aircraft overflying the Syrian positions in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley. Eyewitnesses said that at 1100 local time, 0900 GMT, two Israeli Phantoms flew over the Syrian Army positions in the Rashayya area south of the Al-Biqa' Valley, about 15 km north of the Israeli-proclaimed security strip in southern Lebanon.

The security sources said the two Soviet-made SAM-7 missiles were fired at them without hitting them. Each of the two aircraft dropped six thermal balloons.

'Force of the Free Arab' Attacks Syrian Post
NC2402202689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] An organization calling itself the Force of the Free Arab has, in a call to Radio Free Lebanon, announced that one of its groups launched a hand grenade attack on a vehicle and artillery depot of the Syrian occupation forces near the Concorde building, in the Al-Hamra' district of West Beirut, shortly after 2000 this evening. The organization said that two Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attack and a truck was damaged.

Group Claims Wounding Syrian in W. Beirut 26 Feb
NC2702074489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salah Forces have announced that one of their groups attacked a Syrian occupation army position near the amusement park in Al-Rawshah in West Beirut with grenades at approximately 2210 yesterday. The group said that one of the soldiers manning the position was injured in the attack.

Israelis Break Sound Barrier During Overflights
NC2502101189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the South, Beirut, and the mountain breaking the sound barrier at 1155 this morning.

Conduct 'Mock Raids' Over Sidon
NC2502141689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] A squadron of Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and nearby camps and conducted mock raids for a few minutes at noon today.

Continue Raids Over Sidon
NC2602195189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] This evening Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon and the camps, using flares.

Israeli Force Aids Lahd Patrol Near Border
NC2702102989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The Muhammad Salim group of the martyr Abu al-Walid al-Rumi unit attacked a Lahd militia patrol on the main Zumrayyah-Al-Hasbani road with machineguns and rockets at 0730 this morning. An Israeli force backed by two Merkava tanks and militia force rushed to the area to rescue the agents. They raked the surrounding area. Three military vehicles penetrated 3 km north of the border strip area at 0830 and raked the area for approximately 1 hour with tank fire. An artillery shell destroyed the house of Muhammad 'Ullayq of Mazra'at 'Ayn al-Shur in Libayya town.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Second Milli Shura Opening

LD2502224289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1637 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at the opening session of the Milli Shura in Kabul on 25 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed members of both chambers of the Afghan Milli Shura:

Allow me to open the second regular session of the current round of Afghanistan's Milli Shura in line with the provisions of Article 86 of the Constitution. I congratulate you deputies and senators at the opening of the second regular Milli Shura session.

Dear deputies and senators, the 3-month adjournment period of the Milli Shura has, from the point of view of events and incidents, been difficult for our country. The great political acts during those days will no doubt be registered eternally in the history of our country. The characteristics of this stage of national reconciliation is demonstrated in the fact that the Republic of Afghanistan has proved its loyalty to the policy of national reconciliation by fulfilling its obligations. During this stage we purposefully utilized all internal and external facilities and channels for implementing the national reconciliation policy.

At the suggestion and with the full agreement of the Republic of Afghanistan, talks were regularly conducted with representatives of the opposition in Al-Ta'if, Islamabad, and Rome by Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and ambassador and representative extraordinary of that country in the Republic of Afghanistan. As a result, the Pakistani-based group leaders, who had no single view at the negotiating table, irresponsibly rejected talks.

Later, half of them voted in favor of continuing the talks. The Iran-based eight-party coalition insisted on the indiscriminate participation of all political forces in the political life of the country. The conclusion drawn from all these efforts is that the extremist groups' purpose is to monopolize power and supremacy and crush one another's role. It is for this reason that they want to continue the war and fratricide.

We have continued contacts and talks with the armed opposition forces through various channels. In light of this, we declared a cease-fire throughout the country from 1 to 5 January 1989 as the first step toward talks and understanding. Regretfully, it was infringed upon by the opposition.

Similarly, the total withdrawal of Soviet forces was completed on 15 February as laid down in the Geneva accords and in observance of the Geneva accords, by the Republic of Afghanistan, a signatory, and by the Soviet Union, a guarantor. And now there is not a single Soviet troop in Afghanistan. The withdrawal of the Soviet forces from our country is a manifestation of the honest implementation of the obligations and loyalty of the Republic of Afghanistan toward its undertakings. Meanwhile Pakistan, a signatory, and the United States, a guarantor, blatantly infringed upon the Geneva accords and continued this infringement. During this period, despite our constructive measures, the historic enemies of the country, the extremists and their supporters, revealed their true face of being against nationalism and peace.

Parallel with the completion of the Soviet forces' withdrawal the extremists greatly intensified their hostile activities and the reactionary Pakistani military circles shamelessly increased their support to the extremists and their interference in our country. The warmongering extremists increased their destructive hostile operations on the highways and encircled the cities. They stole food and fuel from our suffering people during this severe cold winter, destroyed them and intensified their destruction just to steal a piece of bread from children, women, and the elderly. Their extremist leaders in Pakistan presented the list of their activities to their patrons. The fact that they impose hardship on our people and threaten them with death, poverty, sickness, and hunger shows that the extremists no longer respect our people's right to live.

Pakistani reactionary military circles' support to the extremists increased to the extent that Pakistani militia and commando units participated in attacks on Afghan territory. During the last days of the Soviet withdrawal, Pakistan stationed its military forces along our border. Recent statements by Pakistani President Ishaq Khan, which have incited anger and hatred among zealous Afghans, revealed the sinister plans of our country's historic enemies. The situation is very clear. To express their appreciation the harbingers of the so-called jihad and freedom are ready to exchange the freedom and independence of our country, at the price of our soil, for the sake of leaning on the chair of power.

With the full withdrawal of the Soviet military contingents, the Afghan Armed Forces, who have proven themselves in the last 10 years as the true defenders of Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, have taken on the task of independently defending the country. It is clear that despite the extremists' intensified destructive activities, our Armed Forces are the true heir of the mujahidin on the path of freedom and independence for the country and are standing in the trenches to defend our homeland and people.

Dear audience, our country is going through a difficult period as a result of foreign interference and the intensified destructive activities of the extremist opposition. Should we allow the extremists to block the highways and impose poverty, bread shortages, and sickness? Should we allow them to jeopardize people's lives by

attacking and encircling cities? At this difficult time we must answer the principal historical national question: How do we prevent the extremists' hostile activities and foil and eliminate interference and aggression? What type of measure should be taken against the recent activities of the Pakistani military which is a serious threat to our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity? We have decided to take serious measures and steps that would constitute strong and firm action against the people who want to sell our country and make our citizens slaves of Pakistan.

After comprehensively assessing the situation and conditions, we focused our attention on implementing measures with the following aims:

The ground should be prepared to protect the gains of the national reconciliation policy and means and ways for their further expansion should be sought.

The Constitution should be protected and valid, as a great outcome of the national reconciliation policy and the political system.

The principles of our political life—the principles of political polarity and a multiparty system—should be kept and remain firm.

All measures must be taken in accordance with the instructions of the Constitution and conform with its influence.

In general, the measures should be considered a means to an end to give the people the right to defend their lives and to ensure peace and tranquility in the country.

On the basis of the trust given to me in the Loya Jirgah of Afghanistan's people held in November 1987 and in according to those pledges I made to the nation's representatives, the state of emergency was declared and became enforced based on the instructions of Article 4 and of the Constitution, which consider it the unshakeable duty of the state to defend the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country while ensuring its security and defense capability, with the authority and instruction of paragraph 11, Article 75 and Article 143 of the Constitution.

It is obvious that utilization of the means and measures mentioned in the Constitution demonstrates the consolidation of our political system, our respect for the Constitution, and our loyality to the national reconciliation policy. The esteemed members of Milli Shura should know that the measure being taken—the declaration of the state of emergency—fully conforms with the spirit of accepted international norms and standards, including those international accords on civil and political rights Afghanistan has agreed to.

According to Paragraph 2, Article 144 of the Constitution a number of authorities of the Milli Shura should be given to the Council of Ministers. In connection with this, we noted that the situation requires that during the state of emergency a number of measures should be taken and put into practice very quickly.

According to the instructions of Paragraph 5, Article 144 of the Constitution, the law on the state of emergency should have been approved and become enforced in order to establish the authorities of state bodies and their activities. All the measures that should have been taken are listed in this law and the responsibilities of state bodies have been determined within the limit of its instructions. Serious measures have been taken to prevent the state of emergency from causing any law breaking.

On the basis of paragraph 4, Article 144 of the Constitution, a number of articles of the Constitution which are mentioned in this paragraph have been limited or suspended. Their nature has been confirmed in the law on the state of emergency. Serious attention has been paid to the fact that even under difficult conditions and in a period when the state of emergency is enforced we will not completely destroy the rights and basic freedoms of citizens. As stated in the decree on the declaration of a state of emergency, these measures have only a temporary nature. There is great confidence that the state of emergency will end in a very short time, with the high spirit of free Afghan people, with the help of almighty God, and as a result of effective work by the various state forces and organs.

Esteemed members of the country's parliament, the protection and defense of the Constitution and the present political system is achieved by giving credence to the role of those bodies created in light of the Constitution. During the state of emergency in particular, serious and heavy responsibilities lie before these bodies nationwide. That is why the parliamentary role and system become more obvious in smoothing current conflicts. From the very beginning we have termed the parliament a body of compromise and conciliation.

I want to announce, openly using the trusted tribune of the national reconciliation's parliament, that we have adopted a state of emergency and firm measures to defend the gains of the national reconciliation policy in order to find the necessary conditions for a broad national understanding and dialogue, and to form a socially broad-based government. Therefore, during the state of emergency the (?attitude) and measures of the Republic of Afghanistan have various dimensions: Serious, firm, and brave action toward those people who block the roads and highways and encircle the cities, thereby threatening the life of our suffering people; and action to foil conspiracies and plots being planned against our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

On the other hand, as before, we will leave open the path to peace, compromise, and reconciliation to those who think about peace and tranquility for the people, believe in a cease-fire, and draw closer to the path of understanding and dialogue. We are in favor of understanding and dialogue with every peace-loving Afghan, with every influential political personality, and with all groups and formations who respect the high principles of the defense of the country's independent national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

At a time when there is no pretext left for our enemies, our esteemed and worthy delegates and senators, especially as the true heirs and owners of the common home of Afghans, should pay particular attention to ensure these noble goals. I think that in the case of the state of emergency the duties of the country's parliament have not been reduced but have been increased several fold. Let us concentrate on the burden of work and accumulation of activities. With the active participation of parliament as a trustworthy organ of the national reconciliation policy, the esteemed delegates and each member of the Milli Shura must consider it their duty to create and intensify contacts, understanding and dialogue, and to implement the national reconciliation policy.

Now more than at any other time, favorable conditions and time are available for the opposition commanders inside the country to free themselves from the fear of the so-called Pakistani leaders and to think independently as a Muslim and peace-loving Afghan. They must think about the fact that until yesterday the [word indistinct] resident leaders were provoking them under the pretext of the presence of Soviet forces in order to continue war. Now, when the last Soviet soldier has returned to his country, why, for what reason should the war and killing continue? The killing of fellow believers and compatriots should continue because a leader—the leader who bowed to the reactionary circles of Pakistan for so-called gratefulness and who begs political power from the foreigners—wants to lean on the chair of power.

The so-called shura and its Pakistani Afghan government has certainly given every internal armed opponent a clear idea about the establishment and the export of this government to Afghanistan and how these whimsical leaders forget their associates and partners. The opposition failed to adopt a single stand or a single policy or program while setting up this so-called shura.

The United States and Pakistan tried to set up a stage-managed shura in the wake of the withdrawal of the Soviet limited contingents and with its establishment to assure the imaginary unity of the opposition forces. As you know, the shura—which our people call the Pakistani-made shura—showed its contradictory, contravening, ignominious, and incredible face to the world. Representatives of the alliance of eight left the shura due to the unfair allocation of seats.

The supporters of the former king, Muhammad Zahir Shah, have demonstrated against the shura. Those commanders and heads of the armed opposition forces inside Afghanistan also did not attach importance to the resolutions and decisions of the extremist leaders. Some internal commanders even totally condemned the shura. This is the picture of a shura which is set up like a prison. By adopting this stand, made by a foreign government, the shura members want to impose their supremacy on the Afghan people who have a respected history, religion, tradition, and culture.

Will Afghan gallantry and Afghanistan's tradition of local consultation and arbitration councils allow the people of Afghanistan to accept such a Pakistan-made government?

Dear deputies and senators, the second session of the Milli Shura starts its work at a very difficult time and under destiny-making circumstances. As you know there is uneasiness after every difficulty. I am fully confident that you esteemed deputies and senators are aware of your duties at this critical time, and that you will start work to ensure peace with more vigor and efforts.

With the withdrawal of the Soviet units there is no excuse for the continuation of war and fratricide. During the state of emergency we will apply all our efforts to continue national reconciliation and we will utilize all internal and external facilities to draw the attention of the leaders of the world to the full implementation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and the United States. By sending letters to the mass media you know that we have drawn the attention of leaders of the region and the world. We have asked for endeavors to comprehensively enforce the Geneva accords and for economic assistance.

The Republic of Afghanistan will strongly continue its efforts to maintain the credibility and legality of the Geneva accords. Now that all Soviet forces have left in accordance with the decision and efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan and in line with the Geneva accords, the Republic of Afghanistan once again cordially asks the authorities of Pakistan and the United States to open a new page in relations between our countries. What we want from other countries, including Pakistan and the United States, is full compliance with the recognized international principles and norms of all countries which accept the United Nations Charter.

The people of Afghanistan are determined to leave behind the harsh years of the destructive war immediately, and to eliminate all the painful reminders throughout the country. It may well be that Afghanistan, in its entire history, has never needed as much sympathy from the world community as it does now. It is the humane and moral duty of the whole human community to help

the people of Afghanistan to ensure peace and to reconstruct this country. Right now, within the framework of the United Nations, an appropriate mechanism has been set up that must be activated very soon with the help of member countries.

I conclude my speech by wishing you success in fulfilling your national and Islamic duties, in implementing conciliation, understanding, and the policy of national reconciliation. Success comes from God.

Protest Handed to Pakistani Charge in Kabul

LD2402173989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Afghan Foreign Ministry to receive a strong protest from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. The protest was conveyed to him by acting director of the ministry first political directorate and concerned the violation of Afghan airspace by a Pakistani Air Force helicopter.

The protest states that a Pakistani Air Force helicopter entered Afghan airspace from the direction of Arendu at 1030 on 20 February 1989 and disembarked a number of foreign advisers and ringleaders of bands to carry out subversive actions in Konarha Province. After carrying out a reconnaissance flight, the helicopter returned to Pakistan from the Ragin region.

The Afghan Government strongly protests this violation of Afghan airspace by the Pakistani Air Force and requests Pakistan refrain from such actions, which are against the provisions of the Geneva accords and other accepted norms. If this is not done, the dangerous consequences of such actions will be attributable to the Pakistani authorities.

Najibullah Receives Soviet Ambassador Vorontsov

LD2502164989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] The Press Affairs Office of the Presidency reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, recently received His Excellency Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs and USSR ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan.

Yuliy Vorontsov presented to esteemed Najibullah a detailed report about his visit to Delhi. He also informed esteemed Najibullah about the proceedings and results of his talks with His Excellency R. Ghandi, prime minister of India; high-ranking officials of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Pope John Paul IV, leader of the world's Roman Catholics; and leaders of the Italian Communist Party. The talks concentrated on issues concerning a political and peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan following the complete withdrawal of Soviet units.

Najibullah Appeals to Al-Asad To Assist Peace

LD2402214189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, sent the following message to Damascus addressed to His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic:

In expressing satisfaction at the development of friendly relations between the two Islamic and fraternal countries, the message points out the broad and earnest measures put into practice by the Republic of Afghanistan for the restoration of peace and stability in the country. The message adds that despite all constructive efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan—proven undeniably by the complete withdrawal of Soviet military units—Pakistan and the United States, by ignoring the Geneva accords, are continuing their open intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. The continuation of this interference, which produces nothing but a continuation of war and bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan, endangers peace and stability in the region and in the world.

The message asks the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic to exert spiritual pressure on the other parties to the Geneva accords, by using its political influence so that they observe their commitments vis-a-vis these accords and do not let the fratricidal war continue in our country and impose further calamities on our people.

Najibullah Blames Mujahidin for Food Shortages

BK2602025489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0239 GMT 26 Feb 89

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 26 (AFP)—President Najibullah's timely admission that resistance forces have cut off food supplies to the capital is a subtle ploy aimed at turning the local population against the rebels, analysts say.

They reckon Mr. Najibullah's remarks Saturday were alarmist and did not reflect the true situation.

In a speech before the National Assembly (parliament) here, Mr. Najibullah for the first time acknowledged that the mujahidin had encircled Kabul and other major cities and were causing a famine.

"The opposition (mujahidin) have blocked the roads, surrounded the city and prevented the arrival of supplies," he said, adding that "the situation was difficult and critical."

He then went on the offensive by telling the public that the mujahidin and not the government must be "blamed" for the situation in Kabul, where most people are suffering from shortages.

Kabul has suffered food shortages since the beginning of the year due to bad weather and rebel pressure, and informed sources say supplies of essentials such as wheat and flour have plunged to critical levels.

A United Nations relief plan for Kabul has stalled and only two Soviet convoys carrying 102 tonnes of food have arrived here since the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed on February 15.

Only a few days ago the authorities would have come down heavily on anyone who dared say that mujahidin had surrounded the Afghan capital.

However, at control posts on roads leading east of Kabul, troops have prevented foreigners from going any further saying it was too dangerous as the rebels were only five to 15 kilometres (three to nine miles) away.

Analysts said the alarmist statements of Mr. Najibullah, who implemented a state of emergency here on February 19, were quite unexpected and added that the mujahidin blockade of the capital was in fact far from total.

Wheat, flour and bread have been in short supply for weeks.

But meat, vegetables, fresh fruit and nutritious preserved fruit, though costly, are readily available in Kabul's many small markets and the main bazaar. Only the poorest of the poor are staring starvation in the face.

Much of the produce comes from areas east of here near the border with Pakistan, the quantities varying with the difficulties encountered by convoys in getting here.

Reliable sources here said some trucks arrive partly empty after the mujahidin have offloaded some of the cargo to sell it at prices substantially lower than those charged in shops here.

Witnesses said that in recent days roadside traders in Kabul's northern suburbs were offering cooking oil at 75 percent the cost demanded in the city centre.

Mr. Najibullah's remarks Saturday came days after the government released figures showing that selective rationing had been introduced benefitting the military, ruling communist party and government.

The figures said that 75 tonnes of wheat were distributed on Tuesday of which 70 percent went to the military, 20 percent to government bodies and ruling party members and only 10 percent to hospitals.

They added that stocks of wheat and flour had plunged to 7,711 tonnes against a normal average of 10,000 tonnes.

Fuel is also in short supply, with petrol only available on the black market for seven U.S. dollars a litre (about a quart).

Informed sources said here Saturday that the government and Armed Forces were stocking up on petrol supplies and that fuel was deliberately being kept in short supply so as to keep vehicles off the road.

More on Wakil News Conference in Kabul 16 Feb
LD1602235689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1642 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Question and answer session of news conference given by Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil in Kabul on 16 February—recorded]

[Text] [Canadian correspondent—name indistinct—asks question in English followed by Dari translation] Have the Pakistani military forces entered the territory of Afghanistan? Can you give a figure regarding the number of Pakistan military units that have taken up positions in the vicinity of Afghanistan's borders?

[Wakil] In reply to this question we can say that interference in the form of Pakistani military advisers and Pakistani militia forces has been continuing in the past 10 years. They cooperate and give instructions to the armed extremists (?dispatched) from Pakistan to Afghanistan. But now, following the Soviet units' withdrawal and the complete observation of the Geneva accords by Afghanistan and Soviet Union, Pakistan and other supporters of the armed extremists perceive that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have sufficient ability to defend themselves and the national sovereignty of the country against attacks by the armed extremists exported from Pakistan. These supporters have embarked on a series of measures, maneuvers, activities, and interventions in the territory of Afghanistan and along the border to encourage the defeated spirit of the armed extremists.

As to the question of how many Pakistani forces have taken positions along the border, the exact figure is definitely difficult. However, those who have entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan wearing the clothes of Pakistani militia to assist the extremist groups, in Jalalabad alone, number more than 1,500-2,000.

Units and sub-units of Pakistan's military forces, as you already know, are stationed in the area of Chaman, around Bajaur Agency, Chatral, Parachenar region, and in the vicinity of Towr Kham.

[Unidentified Indian journalist, in English followed by Dari translation] If rebel forces attack Jalalabad, what preparations, both on land and in the air, have been made against them?

[Wakil] What can we say to your question of whether the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in Jalalabad Province and civilian PDPA members and other members of social organizations have sufficient capability and power to repulse every attack by the armed extremists who

may ask for further assistance from their Pakistani supporters as they do now in practice and continue interfering? The land and air forces of Afghanistan, as a whole, have sufficient capability and power, from the viewpoint of morale and military spirit, to inflict crushing blows and harsh replies to the armed extremists and their supporters in and around Jalalabad. [(Kalahar) in English, followed by Dari translation] (Adam Kalahar), a UPI correspondent. Now that the Soviet Union has left Afghanistan, can you see any circumstances in which they might return? And second, what kind of Soviet military assistance and possibly aerial assistance will be given to Afghanistan in the future?

[Wakil] Now one should be optimistic. Only 1 day has elapsed since their withdrawal. Why should we think about their return? We have specific agreements and treaties with the Soviet Union in all spheres including the economic, cultural, and military spheres. All our relations are bound by these agreements and treaties. There are no references in the Geneva accords on the nature of future military aid and cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Geneva accords only concern the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's military units, noninterference by Pakistan and Afghanistan [in each others affairs], and the return of refugees. Therefore, with the Soviet units' withdrawal we hope that outside interference, mainly from Pakistani soil, will cease and the need for further tension and war will diminish in Afghanistan.

[(Kalahar)] Actually, the question is, now that the Soviet units have returned to their country, will Soviet fighter planes take part in military operations inside Afghanistan in the future?

[Wakil] In response to your repeated question I should say that today is the first day since the Soviet units returned. Why should we be so pessimistic to expect Soviet operations from its territory by aircraft or something else to crush the opposition inside Afghanistan? You should instead concentrate on the fact that grounds for interference from abroad should be eliminated. I have told you in the beginning that the Republic of Afghanistan's Air Force and Army have enough strength to crush and rebuff armed opposition in every corner of Afghanistan, if there is no direct interference from Pakistan.

[Unidentified THE GUARDIAN correspondent in English followed by Dari translation] In your talks you mentioned the Pakistani president and the Pakistani military, but you have not said anything about the role of Benazir Bhutto in what you have described as Pakistani military expansionist aims against your country. And can you give us more information on the UN peacekeeping force?

[Wakil] We do not recognize two governments in one country. The word of Ishaq Khan, president of Pakistan, is the word of the Government of Pakistan. Whether there are differences of opinion between Benazir Bhutto, Ishaq Khan, Yaqub Khan, Aslam Beg, and Gul Hamid (sic), head of the military intelligence of Pakistan, with regard to the political solution of the Afghan issue or the military solution of the Afghan issue through their intervention is something which depends on the Government of Pakistan.

What I can say is that Benazir Bhutto, in reply to a journalist's question, frankly said that Pakistan has its own serious problems, that the national unity of Pakistan is questionable and that Pakistan as a developing country is opposed to any kind of expansionist policies. However, we further desire that esteemed Benazir Bhutto, who incidently admitted yesterday that her democratic government is under serious threat from Pakistani extremists, would be able to implement a harmonious foreign policy with the Foreign Office of Pakistan, Yaqub Khan, and the Pakistani President Ishaq Khan.

So far, Afghanistan has not asked the UN to send UN peace-keeping forces to Afghanistan or to its borders, if you are refering to my talks yesterday with General Helminen, deputy to Mr Cordovez, on implementing and assessing the Geneva accords in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We know that the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] team will exist for 9 months after the signing of the Geneva accords. [passage indistinct]

Najiba Karimi of Afghan radio and television. Now that all the Soviet troops have left the country, what measures has the Republic of Afghanistan taken to ensure peace? I have another question too. So far, what has the UN Good Offices Mission done about the Pakistani violations? How does it assess these violations and what were the results?

[Wakil] In reply I should say that in his news conference recently esteemed Afghan President Najibullah said that we have not taken extraordinary and dramatic measures since the withdrawal of Soviet forces. We were ready and took measures during the 10 years of war which was being imposed on us for the day when the Soviet limited contingents would finally return to their country. Therefore, our measures were taken over a very long time.

We could say on the eve of the Soviet withdrawal, and now on their full withdrawal, that approximately 10,000 civilian PDPA members armed themselves in the event that military pressure from the extremists increases. If this pressure increases they will strike a crushing blow to the violations and activities of the extremists. This means that previous and existing measures were taken with the awareness and knowledge of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan in all the spheres. These measures will be put into practice.

In connection with Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords I should say in response to your question that unfortunately, since the Geneva accords—which the

Afghan people pinned their hopes on to bring peace and an end to interference—were signed, these violations have obtained greater dimensions and broadly expanded. Although the observation of the Geneva accords is solely the responsibility of each country, this means the responsibility of Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as the responsibility of their guarantors, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan have observed their commitments concerning the withdrawal of Soviet troops in accordance with the accords. There was not any extra UN pressure on us beyond the Geneva accords themselves to implement them. In the same way, the United Nations cannot bring any strong pressure on the United States and Pakistan. This all depends on their honesty, on whether they honor commitments to which they are signatories. So far, they have shown that they are not loyal to what they signed. They did not commit themselves and walked on their commitments in a rough and ugly way. In fact, they trampled on the prestige of the United Nations and on international accords.

As I mentioned in my statement, we seriously expect the United Nations and the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan to seriously assess Pakistan violations from now on and to consider memoranda which are being handed over to this mission by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the provision of the accords. It is our hope that they will give a realistic and objective report to the world, to the UN secretary general, to his special envoy, Mr Diego Cordovez on how Pakistan and the United States violate the Geneva accords daily.

[Unidentified REUTER correspondent in English, fading into Dari translation] Has a curfew been ordered in Kabul?

[Wakil] As you know, our opposition does not sit quietly. After the withdrawal of the Soviet troops in accordance with the instructions of their (word indistinct) and Pakistani and international patrons, they are trying to create any conspiracy, destruction, sabotage, and disorder in Kabul and other Afghan cities. Therefore, if these measures were taken and put into practice they only aim at foiling plans and sinister intentions and to a larger extent to ensure tranquility, peace, and a normal life for the Afghan people.

[Ducet, in English fading into Dari translation] Lyce Ducet, BBC. After 9 years the Soviet forces have left Afghanistan. There has not been any great ceremony to mark this occasion and a very short statement with a few paragraphs were issued by the state in this connection. Why has the withdrawal of the Soviet troops taken place with so simple a ceremony?

[Wakil] We had, during the first stage of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, many ceremonies, glorious ceremonies by Kabul citizens and people along roadsides from Kabul to Hayratan and Termez, 6 months ago. This showed the Afghan state and people's appreciation for the fraternal and internationalist assistance rendered by the Soviet military contingents. Regarding why such glorious ceremonies were not repeated in the same manner, I should say that naturally the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan and that of the Soviet Union did not expect anything extraordinary to happen after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. In fact, this shows our confidence, our indifference, and in fact our serious readiness to show that the withdrawal of the Soviet forces—contrary to the opposition's claims—is a normal matter in accordance with the Geneva accords.

On the statement by the Republic of Afghanistan, last night you heard the military assistance of the Soviet Union, the officers and soldiers of the Soviet Union who were martyred in Afghanistan mentioned with appreciation and respectful words. We consider this [Soviet military assistance] an example of the good-neighborly Afghan-Soviet relations. They have completed their duties in Afghanistan after 9 years in accordance with a protocol signed between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to fulfill their duties in accordance with the Geneva accords. The fact in itself that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union observed the Geneva accords at such a sensitive and historic moment and with respect for the opinion of Afghanistan's people and views of the Soviet people and world public opinion is a great feat.

[Unidentified Turkish correspondent in English, fading into Dari translation] Is it possible that Najibullah will perform Friday prayers tomorrow in one of the communal mosques? Also, can you explain the level of damage to the airport?

[Wakil] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah has always been performing prayers whether it is in one of the mosques tomorrow, or the day after or today. Praying in a mosque or praying on your own are both religious duties. I think Esteemed Najibullah is famous among the Afghan people as a religious Muslim and as a human being who at the highest level respects the beliefs and traditions of the Afghan people. I am sure if he finds time tomorrow or the day after he will certainly perform prayers in one of the communal mosques of Kabul, as before, among compatriots and Kabul citizens.

About the damage to the airport, the public hospital, schools, nurseries, factories, anything is possible by the armed extremists. They do not have mercy. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan will never become too worried about the missile fire of armed extremists on the airport or on one of our military units, but, contrarily, if they hit the house of a poor and deserving family of Afghans, our co-citizen, or if they hit somewhere close to a school or hit a school were will be greatly concerned.

Esteemed Najibullah and the security authorities ask the Armed Forces the first question when the extremists fire blind rockets. The question is where have the rockets hit, the blind rockets. If innocent civilians, children, women, elderly, and those who do not take part in the war at all are injured, he is concerned.

Kabul airport is not a military airport. There are many passenger aircraft. The military aircraft in the airport are only transportation aircraft. Our (?Sophone) aircraft and MiG aircraft are not at Kabul airport at which the opposition aims. They are Ariana [Afghan airline] aircraft, Indian airlines and other aircraft. Our military aircraft are at Shindand airport, Qandahar airport, Mazar-e Sharif airport, and Bagram airport. Therefore, we not only think of the damage caused to the airport, but of all the innocent and civilian people of Kabul city.

[Sadzada, in Persian] 'Ali Sadzada, German radio. You have condemned Salman Rushdie's book. You have also pointed out in your talks that you give more conciliation to the Islamic side. Do you not think that this new policy of the Republic of Afghanistan will cause disillusionment among those people inside the PDPA who are (?gathered) for the cause of socialism? Would this not cause disillusionment among them and possibly increase disagreements?

[Wakil] If you read the statement I made at the begining of this news conference I said that our party and the Republic of Afghanistan are not after the construction of socialism. On the other hand, PDPA members are no different from our compatriots in their religious beliefs, tradition, history, culture, and other sacred rituals. For this reason the clarity of our national and patriotic policy brings about solidarity, unity, and closeness among all PDPA members on the one hand, and on the other brings about the solidarity of the party with the Muslim and religious Afghan people.

This tool being used by the enemies of the PDPA—that the PDPA is a communist party hostile to the beliefs of the Afghan people and against the sacred religion of Islam as well as against the history and glory of the country—this has always been propagated to divide the Afghan people and the overwhelming majority of the Muslim and patriotic Afghan people. For this reason the policy being promoted by the PDPA, led by esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, is a policy which is entirely a patriotic, national, humane, Afghan and Islamic policy.

[Unidentified THE MUSLIM correspondent in English with superimposed Dari translation] The first question is about peace-keeping forces to which you referred in your statement and the various regions you have mentioned such as Quetta, Chatral and Khyber Agency regions. The size of the force is said to be 50 men. Fifty people would not be sufficient to undertake the duties you have described. What do you think of the size of the force?

The second question is about the shura of the 7-party alliance. This shura is being held in Pakistan where the opposition has been working for the past few days. They have recently concluded that Muhammad Zahir Shah should preside over this shura after the Soviet forces withdraw. What is your opinion on this?

The third question is: If Pakistan shows the necessary cooperation regarding the implementation of the Geneva accords would Afghanistan abandon its support for the Pashtunistan idea?

[Wakil] As far as your first question is concerned we can say that this 50-man force can also be increased in accordance with the Geneva accords. The purpose of the control posts is not to fight or have combat status so that when the opposition commits violations they stand up and prevent it. Two or three of their men can observe and witness the constant dispatch of weapons from these sensitive points—these channels of weapon transportation—in view of the notes handed over to them by Afghanistan, because Pakistan at the moment says that no weapons are being dispatched from their territory. They say they are not violating the Geneva accords, but observing them.

In practice, however, they dispatch weapons from these regions to the armed extremist opposition, and they also send their advisers and Pakistani militia forces. Therefore, this is possible with 50 people. And if the United Nations thinks it is necessary it can station more UN posts in these places to witness Pakistan's blatant violations. And after making note of these violations it can report them to the UN secretary general who can expose them to the world so that people will know that the United Nations, an impartial organization, has seen these violations.

As far as your second question is concerned much effort has been made in the past 8 days to convene this so-called shura under any circumstances under the pressure of the Pakistani military intelligence service headed by General Hamid Gul. You can see for yourself that due to differences, antagonisms, diversity of beliefs and opinions, and selfishness and ambition for distributing positions and posts, they have unleashed infighting among themselves.

The Pakistanis, even the Government of Iran, the United States, Britain, France and others organized a broad campaign to prepare for this shura by the date of the final withdrawal of the Soviet military units. They wanted to convene a so-called shura composed of all opposition groups in Islamabad and form a transitional government in Pakistan and then declare to the world that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is no longer a legal government after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, and that this government, created in Islamabad, can genuinely represent the Afghan people.

It was clear in advance to the leader of the Republic of Afghanistan that these chieftains of the extremist groups had not come together for the sake of Afghanistan, for the sake of the people, for the sake of restoring peace, for the sake of their country's freedom and independence. They came together only to distribute booty, generate more income, (?show off), and to create despotism and a government bringing fear, intimidation, and panic. As their objective was not pure, noble, humane, and democratic, on the first day serious differences surfaced between the 8-party alliance based in Tehran and the 7-party alliance based in Peshawar on distributing 100 seats or 60 seats. Therefore, even if this shura had succeeded, with all these profound differences, in forming a fabricated government this would have been only a propaganda issue and a pretext for Pakistan and other supporters of the extremists to broaden the war in Afghanistan.

As far as the role of Muhammad Zahir Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan, in this (?coalition) is concerned you can see that four fundamentalist groups: Gulbuddin, Sayyaf, and Khalis [as heard] are completely against Muhammad Zahir Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan. They are not only against the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan but they are also against anyone who can possibly play a role in restoring peace, removing tension and national unity and cohesion of the Afghan people.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, our policy regarding the role of Muhammad Zahir Shah, the seven-party alliance based in Peshawar and the 8-party alliance in Tehran, and the armed commanders inside Afghanistan, we put forward specific proposals at the suitable time for forming a broad-based government acceptable to all Afghan people and all Afghan political forces, and we will strive to implement this policy. We know very well that the fighting, fratricide, and killing of Afghans can continue for years in Afghanistan unless a broad-based government is formed representing all Afghan people and with all political forces participating. There is absolutely no such aspiration on the part of the Afghan leadership or the PDPA leadership to continue the war.

On the question of future Afghan-Pakistani relations, Pakistan must observe the Geneva accords. It is clear that the main basis for the conclusion of the Geneva accords was on the one hand the cessation of fighting, bloodshed, and fratricide in Afghanistan as well as the withdrawal of the military units of the Soviet Union, and on the other, the important issue was improving and developing good relations and good-neighborly relations between the two Muslim neighboring countries—the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It is clearly stated in the first document of the Geneva accords, the document about non-intervention in each other's affairs, that the objective of concluding this agreement is improving and developing good-neighborly relations between the two neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As far as links between Pashtuns on this side of the Durand Line and Pashtuns on the other side of the Durand Line is concerned, the people of Afghanistan have historic, traditional, tribal, and Islamic links with Pashtuns on the other side of the Durand Line. We have always considered with goodwill and perception this historic background, the destiny of the Pashtun people—the Pashtun people of Afghanistan and Pakistan who have a common heritage. We hope that Pakistan, by implementing the Geneva accords, removes the obstacles on the path for improving and consolidating relations between the two neighboring and Muslim countries.

Thank you for your attention. Thank you for your questions. I hope that you manage to convey realistically and with journalistic honesty the facts about life in Afghan society after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces which you have witnessed.

Sultan Keshtmand Addresses Jam: ' Mena Rally

LD2602170189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Supreme Defence Council took part today [24 February] with the noble people of Jamal Mena in the sacred masrasa [religious school] of Muhammadia. A large number of the inhabitants of Jamal Mena took part. [passage omitted]

Sultan Keshtmand spoke in detail about the humane policy of the PDPA and of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the firm defense of homeland, independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. He said: defending the homeland and ensuring peace and security for the people faced with foreign interference and aggression and the continuation of war by warmongering extremist forces is the duty of all national and democratic strata and fraternal nationalities of the country.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the cooperation of the noble people, among them the noble people of Jamal Mena, with the state during the difficult days which are passing. He drew their attention to defending the homeland and national heritage, ensuring peace, and in particular meeting the needs of people, especially staple goods. He assured them that the state will carry out all possible efforts to serve the people honestly and to resolve their problems. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Issues Decree Promoting Officers

LD2402163789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] In accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following officers of the Armed Forces, have been promoted for their

praiseworthy service and commendable participation in the task of the armed defense of the national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country:

1. Manokay Mangal, son of Barakatullah, governor and chairman of the Defense Council of Nangarhar Province, is promoted from brigadier general to the rank of major general.

2. Barakzay, son of Badkay, is promoted from brigadier general to the rank of major general.

3. Gul Habib, son of Muhammad 'Amin, is promoted from colonel to the rank of brigadier general.

Rebel Commander 'Abdul Haq on Siege of Kabul

PM2402123289 Milan L'UNITA in Italian
22 Feb 89 p 9

[Interview with 'Abdul Haq, mujahidin field commander affiliated with Hezb-e Eslami, by Gabriel Bertinetto in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpt] In Peshawar 'Abdul Haq is the most famous Afghan guerrilla leader. He will lead the assault on Kabul. Small and stocky and with an artificial right foot, Haq stands out among the resistance leaders for his uncommon strategic skills.

"There is a plan," he said, "to avert the Najib regime's instant collapse immediately after the flight, to protect the withdrawal. They have planted remote-controlled bombs in several strategic buildings—installations, government offices, and radio stations. At the time of the flight Najib's men will blow everything up. Now look at this." The commander of the mujahidin besieging Kabul handed me three typewritten sheets. They constitute "report number seven on the situation in Kabul" dated 30 January 1989. He himself is the author. His informers are secret agents of the resistance in the capital. According to 'Abdul Haq, they include 1,500 officers of the regular army, including 25 generals.

I read in the report: "A small heliport has been constructed next to the Central Committee offices. The Soviets have installed special communications equipment that permits direct links with the USSR. This indicates that defense and security operations will be conducted from these underground bunkers." It goes on: "The regime is planning two methods for defending the capital. There are very reliable conventional forces commanded by the palace guard and armed with aircraft, tanks, and artillery. The special 'Hedayat groups' whose task it is to infiltrate the mujahidin and perform terrorist actions are ready for street fighting.

'Abdul Haq's office contrasts sharply with the war in Afghanistan, with the dust and delapidated walls of Peshawar, and with the rough and wild-looking mujahidin guarding the entrance. The door opens onto an elegantly furnished manager's office. The siege of Kabul is conducted with no concessions to chance and with no wastage of lives or resources.

"I have drawn up a three-stage plan for the capture of Kabul: the government's collapse; the maintenance of order, averting killings and plundering; and defense against outside attacks, that is, against a possible return by the Soviets."

[Bertinetto] How will the government collapse? Will the mujahidin attack Kabul?

[Haq] If we blockade the city and stop supplies we will deal a blow to the regime but also to the population, which we do not want. So we must find a half-way solution—exert pressure from outside, attacking military positions and the airport, while selected objectives are targeted from within by commando actions. For instance, power cables, gasoline storage tanks, and food stores—but only those that supply electricity, fuel, and food to the army or communist party establishments.

[Bertinetto] How long will it take to capture Kabul?

[Haq] Presumably nothing special will happen in the next 15-20 days. But when we start the final action it will take only 2-3 weeks.

[Bertinetto] What do you mean by "final action"?

[Haq] I mean the use of maximum force. At the moment we are exerting light pressure. When the time comes we will step up the operations that we are already carrying out. Then it will become essential for the second phase—the maintenance of internal order—to begin. We know what happened in Konduz or the Konarha valley when the mujahidin prevailed—carnage and pillage—and we absolutely do not want a repetition of this in Kabul.

[Bertinetto] Do the other mujahidin leaders operating around Kabul agree with you?

[Haq] The majority, yes.

[Bertinetto] You command most of the forces, but further north, in the Panjsher valley, the leader is Mas'ud, who belongs to another party. What is the status of your relations?

[Haq] Good. We have exchanged our respective plans of action.

[Bertinetto] So will you act jointly?

[Haq] There is a problem. We are at the gates of Kabul, whereas Mas'ud cannot approach as long as Hikmatyar's mujahidin prevent him from doing so. Hikmatyar and Mas'ud hate each other.

[Bertinetto] Is a coup d'etat likely in Kabul?

[Haq] Three kinds of coups could occur: communists against communists, the Soviets against the communists, or the mujahidin (that is, our clandestine colleagues) against the communists. In the former two instances nothing would change. If the last were to occur, it might work. [passage omitted]

Hikmatyar Predicts Elections Within 5 Months

BK2702111789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The chief of the Hezb-e-Eslami and a leader of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has said that the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the formation of an interim government is a big achievement of mujahidin. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar today, he said elections in Afghanistan would be held within 5 month. They were mobilizing their energies to topple the Najib regime.

Mojaddedi Seeks International Recognition

BK2402143789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The leader of the government of Afghanistan that was formed last night has called upon all countries, particularly Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) members, to recognize the new Islamic government. He also urged the ICO Secretariat and the UN secretary general to allot seats for the representatives of the Islamic government in their organizations.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he appealed to the free world and governments that extended moral and material help during the jihad to continue their large-scale material aid for the reconstruction of the devastated country and restoration of its economy. Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi urged the Soviet Government to end moral and material support to the puppet regime of Najibullah, which has no foundation in Afghanistan. He announced a general amnesty for those whose hands are not tainted with the blood of the mujahidin but are still working with the puppet regime.

Announces General Amnesty

BK2402161189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The new Islamic government of Afghanistan has announced a general amnesty for those who are still working with the puppet regime of Najibullah, so long as their their hands are not tainted with the blood of the mujahidin.

This announcement was made by the leader of the Islamic Afghan government, Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said that the newly established Islamic government will maintain friendly relations with all countries that supported our jihad. Our government will maintain special relations with all Islamic Conference Organization member countries, particularly with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. [passage omitted]

Expressing gratitude to the countries who have supported and aided the Afghan jihad on behalf of the Afghan government and people, Professor Mojaddedi said that we will always remember their support. He particularly mentioned Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran in this regard.

In reply to a question, he said that the Islamic Afghan government will be able to assume office in Afghanistan within a month. He announced the names of cabinet members of the new government and their portfolios. Names and portfolios of the cabinet members are:

Professor 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf—prime minister;

Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi—defense minister; [title as received]

Muhammad Shah Fadli—scientific research minister; [title as received]

Haji Din Muhammad—national security minister;

Sayyed Muhammad Nadir Khuram—health minister;

Engineer Ahmad Shah—communications minister;

Muhammad Yunis Khalis—interior minister;

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani—construction minister. [title as received]

Eng Gulbuddin Hikmatyar will appoint someone as the foreign minister and nominate two other ministers.

Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani will appoint a supreme court chief from his party and nominate the ministers for finance and education.

Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, in a message from Tokyo, has extended her sincere felicitations to all members of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin and the consultative council on the successful conclusion of their consultations. In her message to members of the alliance and the Shura, she said that it has become evident to the world that the brave people of Afghanistan, who have struggled for their country's independence, are also well-versed in sensible politics.

Outlines Islamic Government

JN2602205089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[By Isma'il al-Fakhrani]

[Text] Rawalpindi—AL-ITTIHAD was the first newspaper to hold an interview with Shaykh Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, who was elected president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He said that he is preoccupied with ways to unify the mujahidin in Afghanistan to set up an Islamic government. He said this will take nearly 1 month, adding that the reconstrution of cities and villages will be one of the big problems facing the Islamic government in the future. He said that Afghanistan needs to be completely reconstructed in the architectural, security, and agricultural areas and that the people themselves also need a correction in their faith and thought, which were distorted by the communists.

Regarding the strength of the government, he said that a government was set up for the first time and that the head of the state was elected freely by 600 members of the Afghan people's leaders, ulema, chieftains, and scholars, who are charged with power and who enjoy sound opinions and scientific and militant influence on the Afghan people—a fact which will give power to this governmnent. He also affirmed that the seven leaders' participation in the government and their assumption of key ministries also indicate the government's power and firmness.

He stressed that this government will be able, with God's help, to maintain security in Afghanistan. He added that the government was set up in this manner in order to end bloodshed and fighting. He said that this government's great asset in the eyes of the Afghan people is the establishment of the mujahidin, which lasted until the Soviet communists were expelled, and that he will establish an Islamic state.

Asked if the mujahidin's problems have ended with the formation of the government or if there are still some problems, he said that the problems have ended to some extent and there is only one problem with the eight mujahidin organizations residing in Iran. He added: We gave them four portfolios, and we hope they will reconsider their position and participate in the government. These ministries will remain vacant until they respond to our call and participate in our efforts to resolve this problem in order to achieve the great goal—namely, the application of the divine statute and Islamic law in Afghanistan. He also said that the four portfolios were not granted to the Shi'ites, but to the eight Iran-based organizations. He added: Whenever we discuss this issue, we do not distinguish between Shi'ites and Sunnis, but we talk about organizations residing in Pakistan and those residing in Iran. I do not like talking about Shi'ites and Sunnis, because such talk will lead to division.

Regarding the military situation, he said: "I expect the members of the agent government to surrender soon. It has been learned that 2,000 government troops surrendered with their weapons to the mujahidin yesterday." He also said that there are strong contacts between the mujahidin and the government forces. He also said that the city of Jalalabad is expected to fall within days and that the cities of Khowst and Qandahar will also follow. He added: We hope that Kabul will also fall soon, God willing, peacefully and without any bloodshed or the use of weapons.

Regarding the Arabs' support for struggle in Afghanistan, he said: Most Islamic countries supported us. He voiced his thanks to them and said: They maintained a humanitarian position toward their brothers in doctrine and religion by supporting the noblest message of jihad in the cause of God.

Mujahidin Claim Indian Advisers Helping Kabul

BK2502122089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance accused India saturday of sending advisers to support the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, threatening New Delhi with reprisals.

The pro-rebel AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), quoting "well-informed" sources, said the Indians had arrived in the wake of the February 15 completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Indian advisers had been seen at "formal functions" held in Kabul by the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), it said.

A secret agreement may have been reached between Afghan President Najibullah and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during Mr Najibullah's visit to New Delhi in 1988, it said.

The agency, run by the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami group led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, warned that India would face "greater ignominy than the Russians" and that Indian advisers would meet "worse" consequences if they were caught in Afghan territory.

Some 500 Indian officials are expected to arrive in Afghanistan to work as advisers to the "communist regime in the next few weeks," the English-language daily THE MUSLIM said.

The newspaper quoted well-informed Pakistani sources as saying that the Indian officials would assist the Afghan army, the intelligence ministry and the home and tribal affairs ministries.

The reports could not be confirmed independently.

But observers here said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov might have discussed with Indian leaders the replacement of Soviet advisers with Indians during his visit to New Delhi two weeks ago. Mr Vorontsov is also Moscow's ambassador to Kabul.

India is one of the few non-communist countries not to have criticized Moscow for sending troops to Afghanistan. It is also a long-standing regional foe of Pakistan, where the resistance is based.

Mujahidin To Launch 'Major Attack' on Jalalabad
BK2502154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] The new Afghan Government will launch a massive campaign to get itself recognized at the international level. This was stated by an Afghan consultative council member, Tabiz Kohistani. He said they will also prepare for a major attack on Afghan cities, especially Jalalabad, Qandahar, and Khowst.

Meanwhile, reports from Afghanistan say that the supply situation for essential items, like wheat and medicine, has become serious. The problem of keeping the hospitals warm during heavy snowfall in Kabul is also being faced.

Formation of Shura in Pakistan Criticized
LD2502184289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said the following on the formation of a so-called government of Afghan extremists in the territory of Pakistan:

The perpetrators of the undeclared war against our country, in trying to escalate the fratricidal war that brings nothing except death and destruction to our misery-stricken people, have after continuous efforts announced the formation of a provisional government in Rawalpindi.

The formation of this government, which took place under increasing pressure by the intelligence service of Pakistan and their imperialist supporters, is a blatant violation of the UN Charter, the Geneva accords, the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Asembly on Afghanistan, and other internationally accepted norms and principles. It is shameless interference in the internal affairs of an independent, nonaligned, and neutral country, being a member of the United Nations and other credible international organizations.

Efforts to convene the so-called shura and to create a so-called government have not only not been supported by the people of Afghanistan, but also did not even gain the support or backing of the opposition groups based in Peshawar. The creation of such a government, which is in fact a striving to give meaning to the confirmation of the so-called provisional government under the leadership of Ahmad Shah, can have no other fate except the fate of its predecesor.

The harshness and chaos that existed among the extremist elements entrenched in Pakistan from the outset of creating such a government reveals serious rivalry among the chieftains of these groups for attaining political power.

These so-called chieftains of the extremist groups trample on all the Afghan people's hopes for the restoration of peace and security in the country. They are after the monopoly of power, and in this respect they would not spare any action, even to the point of breaking promises with other groups. The objectives of the Pakistani rulers have become increasingly clear to the world public in striving to create such a government. Through this so-called government, these people are after the annexation of Afghanistan under the guise of a confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Such hostile and expansionist plans, which have no other objective except the denial of Afghan independence, have been strongly denounced by our people.

The Republic of Aghanistan has repeatedly stated that any shura without the participation of the genuine political forces of Afghanistan inside and outside the country cannot produce any other result except a further complication of the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan. Such a shura and government, made in Pakistan, are being rejected by our people and lack any legal credibility.

Plane Crash Victims Bodies Returned From Pakistan
LD2702073489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Feb 89

[text] The bodies of the nine victims of the crash of the M-32 Afghan transport aircraft, including four crew members and five passangers, were brought to Kabul this morning from Pakistan by an aircraft belonging to the International Red Cross Committee.

The bodies of the martyrs of this sad incident were handed over to officials at Kabul International Airport by (Jean-Jacques Beldard), head of the International Red Cross Committee in Kabul. Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and defense and the Afghan Red Crescent society were also present. The report adds that the aircraft had been carrying basic goods needed by Khowst citizens on 31 January, when bad weather forced the plane to deviate from its normal path. Despite repeated calls for help from the pilot, the plane came under attack from a Pakistani F-16 aircraft, which fired air-to-air missiles, causing the plane to crash. As a result of this inhumane action, all crew members and passengers of the plane were martyred.

After repeated requests to return the bodies of the victims were ignored by Pakistan, the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan requested the assistance of the International Red Cross Committee. After concerted efforts, the committee succeeded today in transporting the bodies of the victims. The Afghan authorities have expressed thanks and appreciation for this humanitarian assistance by the International Red Cross Committee.

UN Notified of Pakistani Violations of Accords

Notices 240-243 Submitted

LD2602013489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 24, BAKHTAR—Pakistani violations from the provisions of the Geneva Accords were reported to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) in notices number: 240, 241, 242 and 243 by the Liaison Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan with UNGOMAP on Thursday [23 February].

The 240th notice gave information on eighteen cases of launching surface to surface rockets on the residential areas in different provinces. The notice says that delivery of arms and munitions to the extremists through Pakistan give them the ability to disturb peace and security in the country and cause death and injuries to the civilians.

The 241st notice gave precise information about the military training camps in Pakistan in which the Afghan extremists are taught by Pakistani advisors and they are sent back to the territory of Afghanistan for carrying out subversive actions.

The 242nd notes of the Republic of Afghanistan draws the all-sided attention of the UNGOMAP to the fact that the Afghan extremist groups were equipped with different weapons and Pakistani advisors are sent to Afghanistan for disturbing peace in the country.

The 243rd notice gave information in connection to the bomb blast by the extremists in a civil hospital in Herat City which resulted in wounding a number of personnel and patients of that hospital.

The notices stress that Pakistan has speeded up its interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan after complete withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingent from Afghanistan. They asked the UNGOMAP to assess the violations and inform the Afghan side and UN secretary general's representative of its results.

Notices 244-246 Delivered

LD2602164989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 25, BAKHTAR—The 244th, 245th and 246th notices of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on the repeated Pakistani violations from the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted here on Friday to UN Good Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) by the liaison office of the Foreign Ministry with UNGOMAP.

The 244th notice gave information on direct intervention of the Pakistani authorities in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by sending Pakistani militias and officers led by Commander Fazlullah and General Aref to the area neighbouring Sarkani District, Konarha Province and sending 300 Pakistani militias to Chenar area of Sarkani District for subversive activities. The 245 note gave precise information about the explosives, mines and other munitions which had been seized by the security personnel in Shiveh-ke [name as received] District, Kabul Province on Thursday.

The said explosives and mines had been put at the disposal of the extremists by Pakistani military circles.

Likewise, the 246th notice points to the holding of the so-called "consultative council" under the pressure of Pakistani Government and appointment of a number of persons attached to Pakistani secret service.

The notices draw attention of UNGOMAP to such clear Pakistani interferences and demand from the mission to assess the violations as soon as possible and inform the Afghan side and UN secretary general of its results.

Notices 247-250 Sent to UN

LD2702065789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 26, BAKHTAR—The 247th, 248th, 249th and 250th notices of Pakistan's violations of the Geneva Accords were submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNGOMAP Headquarters in Kabul on Feb. 25.

The 247th notice gives a list of the subversive activities committed by the extremist groups. The notice points out that by means of receiving military aids from Pakistan, the extremists have brought under artillery fire the most crowded regions and cities causing huge financial and material losses. The 248th notice draws the attention of the UNGOMAP to two centres and military camps of the extremists in the soil of Pakistan, which are engaged in giving military training to the extremists.

The 249th notice refers to the despatch of the extremists from Pakistan to the territory of Afghanistan for perpetrating subversive activities.

The 250th notice gives precise information about the intrusion of an helicopter of Pakistani Air Force to the airspace of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] on Feb. 20, 1989 transferring a number of foreign advisers and the leaders of the extremist bands for conducting subversive activities in Baricot region, Kunar Province.

The notices ask the UN mission to investigate about these flagrant violation by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva, accords and to inform the Afghan side and the UN secretary general of the findings.

Ulema Send Message to UN To Expedite Aid

LD2602173189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A message by the council of ulema and religious leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, His Excellency Javier Peres de Cuellar, UN secretary general! On behalf of ulema and religious leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and on behalf of all the theologians, ulema, and religious scholars of this country, we are aware of your humane efforts to ensure peace—which the sacred religion of Islam considers good—and your efforts to reach a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan, something which we value greatly. [passage omitted]

We request Your Excellency and His Excellency Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, organizer of the UN economic and humanitarian asssistance, to take immediate action and measures to remove the obstacles to the delivery of UN assistance to the Muslim and religious people of Afghanistan, whose lives are difficult due to this year's extremely cold winter.

As someone with influence in the international arena, we are sure you will be successful in making decisions to remove obstacles—created by a number of countries—to the delivery of UN economic and humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. We are sure you will speed up the delivery of this aid during this difficult and sensitive time, since it is needed more than ever.

All the ulema and religious people of Afghanistan will remember your humanitarian cooperation forever and will thank you for it.

[Signed] Council of ulema and religious leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Meetings Held To Support State of Emergency

LD2702070389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 26, BAKHTAR—Our countrymen held meetings in the capital and provinces supported announcing of the state of emergency by the president of Republic of Afghanistan, to preserve peace in the country.

The BAKHTAR correspondents report that speakers in these meetings spoke on the needs and importance of the announcing of the state of emergency and requested participants to get united to defend national and territorial integrity of Afghanistan like their forefathers. Speakers urged people not to let enemies to threaten life and property of the people to a total annihilation.

Also in these meetings representatives of different strata supported announcement of the state of emergency and promised their preparedness to discharge their patriotic obligations fully and truly for the attainment of peace and security in the country.

Likewise a number of messages, expressing solid support to the state of emergency have been received by various social organisations.

IRNA Reports 3 Army Regiments Join Rebels

LD2502192689 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 25, IRNA—Three regiments of the Afghan Army with their weapons have joined the mujahidin in Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces, mujahidin sources in Peshawar said.

They had been surrounded by the guerrillas on February 16 when they gave up without any resistance and handed over their bases.

A considerable amount of light and heavy weapons, tanks, canons, and various military vehicles were seized by the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Report 35 Kabul Troops Killed

BK2602113789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say at least 35 Kabul regime troops were killed and over 150 surrendered to the mujahidin in clashes at various places during last week. The mujahidin attacked troops in (?Lolana) and killed nine of them. In other clashes at Mazar-e Sharif, (Lowgar Khani) and (Sharibagh) large number of weapons were captured by the mujahidin. At (Lowgar Khani), the commander of the Kabul regime troops along with 101 soldiers surrendered to the mujahidin.

Inter-Rebel Disagreement Intensifies; 1 Killed

LD2602175989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Internal disagreement among the armed extremists groups has intensified recently and caused bloody clashes among them. Recently a serious clash took place between the elements attached to the extremists Gulbuddin and Khalis in the region of (Afridi), Chaprahar subdistrict, Nangarhar Province. One person was killed and 15 others from both hostile groups were seriously injured.

Gulbuddin Group Surrenders in Konduz Province

LD2602162389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Feb. 25, BAKHTAR : [Passage omitted] A group of armed extremists headed by Muhammad Lu'az, which was carrying subversive activities in Konduz Province joined the national reconciliation policy in Konduz Province.

The group which was belonging to the Gulbuddin extremist group which welcomed by the party and state encharges [as received] and a large number of the residents of that province.

Armed Forces Military Operations Detailed

Security Operations 24-25 Feb

LD2602105189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Units and sub-units of the country's Armed Forces carried out mopping-up operations in the last 24 hours in response to the extremists' efforts to loot and plunder. A number of the warmongering elements were crushed, and many of their weapons and bases were destroyed.

A reliable source of the Armed Forces has reported the following to BAKHTAR's military section:

Nangarhar: The extremists protected by the militarists of Pakistan have continued their heavy weapons fire on security posts and residential areas in Rowdat, Shiveh, and Kameh districts and on residential areas located along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The extremists' attacks were met with crushing artillery blows. Some 14 warmongers were crushed, and 2 DShK's and 1 missile were destroyed.

In mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces in (Chaprihar) subdistrict, Rahim Gul, a ringleader of Gulbuddin's extremist group, was killed and two members of his group were arrested and their weapons seized.

Herat: In mopping-up operations by security forces in Gozareh District 17 armed extremists were crushed, and 1 ammunition dump, 16 antivehicle mines, 1 mortar, 2 machineguns, and 6 strongholds were totally destroyed.

Sar-e Pol: Our Armed Forces retaliated the plundering groups which were disrupting security in some regions of Sar-e Pol. Some 20 extremists were killed, and 6 strongholds were destroyed. During these operations two of the Armed Forces were martyred.

Baghlan: In a retaliatory operation by the security forces in response to firing by the criminals in Chashmah-e Shir region, 26 of the warmongering opposition were killed, and 1 ammunition dump and 15 strongholds were destroyed.

Konduz: Units and subunits of the Armed Forces carried out a mopping-up operation along the highway between Shir Khan and Konduz to prevent plundering actions by the robbers. As a result five criminals and two ringleaders of the Jamiyat-e Islami group were crushed. Another five warmongering elements were injured in this operation and two were arrested. The Armed Forces seized two rocket launchers, two machineguns, and one communications set.

Paktia: As a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces in Khowst Major District 14 extremists attached to the Gulbuddin group including their ringleader, Sayd Amir, were crushed.

The situation is normal in other provinces and regions.

According to another report 365 brave youths of the country enlisted and were dispatched to units and subunits of the Armed Forces in the past 24 hours.

Combat Operations 25-26 Feb

LD2602195489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces have organized a series of mopping-up operations in the last 24 hours in reply to the destructive activities by the warmongering extremists. Twenty-six extremists elements were killed and a number of them were injured. During these operations, a large amount of their arms and ammunition were destroyed or seized. The authorities' sources in the Armed Forces reported the following to the BIA military section:

Herat: As a result of clearing-up operations and a search carried out by the Armed Forces' units and companies in Gozareh District, six terrorists supported by Pakistani military men were killed and a number of their arms and ammunition were siezed by the Armed Forces. Due to crushing blows by the artillery forces in surroundings of Enjil district, six extremists were killed, two were injured, and a large number of their arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Qandahar: Due to the firing of heavy weapons by the extremists on the residential areas and security posts in the regions around Sarpoza, Gardan Baba, and the airport, a member of the Armed Forces was killed. As a result of mopping-up operations and a search by the security forces in the surroundings of Daman District, 14 criminals were killed and 3 were injured. A DShK, a reactif [missile] system and 17 strongolds were destroyed. During these operations, 97 mortars shells and 6 rocket launcher shells belonging to the extremists were seized by the Armed Forces.

Kabul: Due to the extremists' heavy weapons fire on the residential areas and security posts alongside Kabul-Nangarhar Highway, an inhabitant in Sorobi District

was martyred and four houses were destroyed. Due to a missile attack on the residential areas of Gol Darreh District, four Armed Forces personnel were martyred and two were injured.

Helmand: As a result of activities by the Armed Forces in the surroundings of Nahr-e Saraj District, three extremists were crushed and their two mortars and two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were seized.

Badakhshan: As a result of blows by the Armed Forces, six extremists elements were crushed and two were injured.

Farah: As a result of recent mopping-up operations in the Morwarid region, seven warmongerers were crushed and four were injured.

Laghman: The warmongering extremists elements fired 24 surface-to-surface missiles yesterday onto the residential areas and security posts of Mehtarlam city. One civilian was injured.

Nangarhar: The criminal extremists fired four reactif shells onto the residential areas of Jalalabad city yesterday afternoon. One missile fired on the village of Qasaba, Jalalabad city, martyred five compatriots including children, and two children were injured.

According to another report, youths volunteering to join the Armed Forces in the last 24 hours—a total of 852 youths—reported to the military commissariats of the country's center and provinces and were sent and introduced to the relevant units and companies.

82 Rebels Reported Killed

LD2702070089 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 26, BAKHTAR—The detachments of the Armed Forces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] have carried out mopping up operations in some provinces of the country in the past 24 hours. In these retaliatory operations, a number of bellicose elements were crushed in the provinces of Nangarhar, Baghlan, Herat, Sar-e Pol, Konduz, and Paktia and some of their caches were demolished.

An authoritative source of the Armed Forces reports to BIA that a total of 82 extremists were killed and some were seized in these operations and a large quantity of their arms were destroyed. According to another report, over 365 youth have joined the ranks of the Armed Forces in the past 24 hours.

India

10 Killed in Protest Against Rushdie Book

BK2402144489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] At least 10 persons were killed and many others injured when police opened fire on the rioting mob at Mohammad Ali Road and Musafirkhana areas in South Bombay today. The mob was protesting against Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses."

An official spokesman told our Bombay correspondent this evening that police resorted to firing after the mob attacked them. The spokesman said the situation is now under control.

Congress-I Leader Opposes Threat To Rushdie

BK2502131889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The center has reviewed the situation arising out of the controversy over the publication of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, discussed the situation late last night with senior officials. [passage omitted]

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh, has condemned the action by certain elements in provoking the minority community to take advantage of the situation arising out of the controversy over the book. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said everybody should appreciate the stand taken by the government. The attempt to provoke any community should be curbed.

Asked to comment on the order of execution issued by the Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, against Salman Rushdie, Mr Singh said: We are followers of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru. We always deprecated violence and terrorism of all kinds.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has urged the government to take stringent steps to tackle the situation arising in Bombay and elsewhere in the country. In a statement, the party said peace should be maintained and all mischievous elements crushed.

Prohibitory Orders Extended in Greater Bombay

BK2602040289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The union minister of state for coal, Mr C.K. Jaffar Sharief, yesterday visited the violence-affected areas of South Bombay. He also met those injured in hospitals. Mr Jaffar Sharief was accompanied by the Maharashtra minister of state for home, Vilas Sawant.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of more than four people] have been extended to the whole of greater Bombay till Tuesday [28 February]. The police commissioner, Mr V.K. Saraf,

who reviewed the situation, described it as tense but under control. Police and state reserve police are keeping a tight vigil in the disturbed areas.

President Venkataraman Returns From Japan 25 Feb
BK2602031689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, returned home last night after attending the funeral of Emperor Hirohito in Japan. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his cabinet colleagues.

On his arrival, the president said he had bilateral discussions with several heads of state during his 3-day stay in Tokyo. Giving details, the president said the royal funeral was arranged with Japanese perfection. The reverence of the Japanese people for the late king is something to be seen to be believed.

Besides calling on the new emperor, Akihito, Mr Venkataraman also met President George Bush of the United States, President Aquino of the Philippines, and President Suharto of Indonesia during his stay. He also exchanged views with Prime Minister Takeshita of Japan.

Atomic Power Plant in Kalpakkam Shut Down
BK2502035689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The 235 mw first unit of Madras atomic power plant, Kalpakkam, was shut down today following detection of heavy water leakage. The project director, Mr Rangarajan, told All India Radio correspondent that the leak was noticed yesterday. However, the unit was allowed to run to facilitate the Tamil Nadu electricity board to make suitable adjustments in power distribution. The unit was onstream 15 days ago after its 2 month annual shutdown.

Iran

Reportage on Visit by USSR's Shevardnadze

Arrives, Met by Velayati
LD2502153889 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived here Saturday evening with a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

Shevardnadze and his entourage were greeted at the Tehran airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and ambassadors of the two countries.

The Soviet foreign minister is to personally submit to Imam Khomeyni Gorbachev's message.

Received by Khomeyni
LD2602063389 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni personally received Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's special envoy Sunday [26 February] to hear a response to his message calling on Gorbachev to study Islam.

Moscow's Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived for the meeting at the imam's home in Jamaran at 8:00 am (04:30 GMT). The meeting was still in progress at 9:30.

Shevardnadze read the Soviet leader's reply to the imam's message of January 4, but no details were immediately available.

In his extraordinary message, delivered to the Soviet leadership by his special representatives in Moscow, the imam praised Gorbachev's courage in reforming Soviet society but said the answers for Moscow's problems were not in the West and he should study Islam.

Shevardnadze is believed to be the first foreign minister to meet Imam Khomeyni alone. Other foreign ministers and leaders have met the imam as part of peace delegations early in the Iraqi war.

It is also the first visit of a Soviet foreign minister to Iran after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Soviet delegation arrived Saturday in the last stop of a ten-day tour of the Middle East.

Further on Meeting With Khomeyni
LD2602141389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Report with recorded portion on meeting between Imam Khomeyni and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Khomeyni's residence in Jamaran on 26 February; Shevardnadze speaks in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into Persian; Khomeyni speaks in Persian followed by translation into Russian; both Shevardnadze and Khomeyni are translated from the Persian]

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today received Eduard Shevardnadze, the special envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR. During the meeting, he presented a written message from Mikhail Gorbachev to the imam of the ummah and related the contents of the message to Imam Khomeyni. Here is reportage on the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Shevardnadze] I am very grateful to Your Eminence, the Imam, for giving me this opportunity to meet you.

[Khomeyni] Thank you very much.

[Shevardnadze] I have been assigned to convey Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to Your Eminence, the Imam. I will try to relate the contents of the message to you very briefly. First, I wanted to say that the exchange of messages between the leaders of our two countries is a unique phenomenon in mutual relations.

[Khomeyni] God willing [words indistinct].

[Shevardnadze] No doubt. I thank you. We believe that conditions have now reached a point where relations between the two countries are entering a new phase for cooperation in all fields.

[Khomeyni] Of course, we also wish the same thing, that is, for our relations (?to expand).

[Shevardnadze] In his message, Mr Gorbachev states that Your Eminence's message to the secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee is extremely meaningful. All the members of the Soviet Presidium have studied the contents of Your Eminence's message. No doubt we agree on a number of major points, but there are certain points on which we disagree.

However, that is not important. Your message contains serious points about the fate of mankind. Mr Gorbachev believes that we agree on this point; that is, people should help each other so that mankind becomes (?invulnerable). If the people do not unite, there will be the danger of catastrophe for mankind because manking has created the means to bring about such a catastrophe. Mr Gorbachev believes that the struggle to establish a world free from nuclear arms and bullying is the duty of all nations.

[Khomeyni] Of course, it must be so.

[Shevardnadze] Regarding the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, our aim is to (?return) mutual values for all nations and to give priority to these values over all other interests, whether class-based or national.

Mr Gorbachev has written to you that the imam's message referring to the Iranian leadership's goodwill—in connection with establishing good relations and good-neighborly ties with the Soviet Union—has received a good response from the Soviet leaders.

We share a very extensive border, as well as ancient traditional and cultural ties between the two nations.

We have a sound basis for the continuation of our ties in this new era; that is, on the basis of mutual respect and equal rights and noninterfernece in the internal affairs of one another.

Mr Gorbachev writes that in our international policy, we follow a fundamental principle: the principle of respect for the freedom of choice for each individual and nation.

Consequently, our country and our entire nation has welcomed your great revolution. The monarchical despotism in Iran exploited its people and used truly barbaric policies, trampling on the honor and credibility of this nation in order to assuage foreign forces. Your revolution was the choice of your nation and we always have and will continue to support that choice.

Mr Gorbachev has written in his message that our nation too has made her choice in the year 1917. In our case we faced great obstacles as well as remarkable success and great mistakes and the violation of human rights. We will redress and condemn those mistakes. Despite all the obstacles, we managed to defend our achievements as the people's choice was the true choice.

I wish to inform you that the issue of freedom of criticism is one of the items on the political agenda of today's international scene. We ask ourselves which path should we choose for the future. Is our road to be an old and dogmatic path, or a new and revolutionary path? Our choice is the second path. In our country we have a revolution, but a peaceful revolution without weapons and without resorting to force.

We hope that all our people know that in our country the course of modernization and reconstruction continues: economic reconstruction, political reconstruction, a restructuring of our evaluations and our thinking, and a restructuring of the views that we held before.

Mr Gorbachev pointed out that recently great changes have come about in the world. We can say that we are at the threshold of a new economic and political order. Some very major agreements have been signed. One class of weapons are being destroyed. There are good prospects for the elimination of chemical weapons, and also for preventing military confrontations between governments. However, this is not an imperialistic issue; this is the will of the nations, necessitated by the present situation. There is no other option, because the arms race and its extension into space will result in calamity for humanity.

In various parts of the world, bloody clashes are coming to an end. We openly welcome the ending of the Iran-Iraq war. We are prepared to cooperate with you to strengthen peace in the Middle East, the Near East and in all parts of the world. The presence of military clashes [as heard] in the Persian Gulf is a source of anxiety to us. I mean the military presence of countries from outside the region. This is a very dangerous phenomenon, and it should come to an end.

We can also have a good cooperation with you in a just solution to the Afghanistan conflict. Let us allow the people of Afghanistan to decide their own fate without outside interference.

Another point in Mr Gorbachev's message: He expresses his willingness to expand economic cooperation in areas where in the past we had good cooperation. We are also ready to establish and continue contacts between individuals, representatives from social groups, and members of the clergy.

Your Excellency's invitation for a visit to Qom was brought to the notice of the Muslim 'ulema of our country. There is no doubt that they will also make use of your invitation. This was the main content of Mr Gorbachev's message.

He conveys his best wishes and greetings to Your Excellency. He wishes for Your Excellency's long life, and the interest and well-being of the Iranian nation.

[Khomeyni] Please tell him that I wished to open a wider horizon to you. [end recording]

At the end, his holiness the imam said: I wish to open a window to the great world—that is, the world in the afterlife, the eternal world—to Mr Gorbachev. That was the main point of my message. I hope he will make efforts once again in this field. [sentence as heard]

His holiness the imam welcomed the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and stressed goodneighborliness, the expansion of strong relations in all dimensions against Western plots [sheytanatha-ye gharb], and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. He expressed his hope that the Soviet and Iranian people will always live in peace and tranquillity.

Confers With Musavi

LD2602172289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Mr Shevardnadze met and conferred with Prime Minister Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi this evening. During the meeting, in referring to this morning's discussion with his holiness the imam and the messages exchanged between the leaders of Iran and the USSR, Mr Shevardnadze evaluated this issue as a significant event in the two countries' relations.

The USSR foreign minister, in conveying greetings of his country's leader and prime minister to Mr Musavi, also referred to the role that more frequent meetings between the two countries' high-ranking officials can play in the expansion of relations, and informed our country's prime minister of the official invitation offered by the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers to Mr Musavi to visit that country.

Mr Shevardnadze said the Soviet side of the joint commission will visit Tehran soon bringing various interesting proposals for the expansion of economic relations.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Musavi also confirmed the importance of this morning's meeting between the USSR foreign minister and his holiness the imam, and expressed the hope that by starting work on several important economic projects—including piping Iran's gas to Eastern Europe via the USSR and implementing the Bandar-e 'Abbas-Sarakhs railway linking the two countries' railways—and by pursing long-term strategic cooperation, a the two countries' economic relations would quickly expansion.

During this meeting, Mr Musavi also thanked the Soviet foreign minister for the invitation to visit that country and expressed hope that this trip would take place at an appropriate opportunity.

They also held talks and discussions on the obstructions created by the Iraqi regime in the implementation of Resolution 598, continued presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, and other regional international issues.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD2602181789 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Soviet and Iranian foreign ministers today agreed to draw up a protocol for regulating political contacts between the two neighbouring countries and to explore ways of boosting cultural and scientific ties.

Eduard Shevardnadze and 'Ali Akbar Velayati called for expansion of Tehran-Moscow ties in various fields in their first round of talks, during which they also studied cooperation in international forums and the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Commenting on the audience with Imam Khomeyni, he said the Soviet leadership attaches great importance to the meeting which he described as "historical and exceptional."

Today morning, the Soviet foreign minister had the honour to meet the leader of the Islamic revolution at Jamaran, where he submitted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to the imam's message sent to the latter last January 4.

Shevardnadze, termed his visit to Tehran "as the first of its kind in seventy years," and called for a regular exchange of visits between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Velayati replied that the Islamic Republic favours expansion of ties with its northern neighbour in various fields.

Shevardnadze arrived here last night carrying Gorbachev's reply for the imam's message which had asked the Soviet leader to study Islam seriously as a healthy substitute for the communist system.

During the memorable meeting, the founder of the Islamic Republic welcomed withdrawal of Soviet troops from neighbouring Afghanistan, and underlined the expansion of "strong" relations with Moscow to confront the West.

More on Velayati Talks

NC2702064389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The first round of talks between Mr Shevardnadze, special envoy of the Soviet leadeship and Soviet foreign minister, and our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, took place yesterday afternoon.

The Central News Unit reports that during these talks, Mr Shevardnadze referred to his exceptional and historic meeting with Imam Khomeyni and said: The Soviet leader attaches great importance to this meeting, and we consider it a strong basis for the expansion and consolidation of relations with Iran in all fields.

Mr Shevardnadze also said that his trip to Iran is actually the first visit in 70 years to Iran by a Soviet foreign minister. He added: We should compensate for this gap and try to lay a good and legal foundation for regular meetings between the two countries' foreign ministers. He added: The Soviet Union considers relations with Iran as an independent and important part in its foreign policy.

Mr Velayati too pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the expansion and consolidation of relations with its northern neighbor in all fields and is ready to use untapped potentials in the two countries' relations.

During this round of talks, the two sides agreed to sign a political protocol to make regular political contacts between the two countries. It was agreed that the two sides compile a program for the expansion of scientific and cultural ties.

Discussions were also held on the two countries' cooperation on international issues and on the recent developments concerning the talks on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Sees 'Turning Point' in Ties

LD2702111689 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—The Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today described as a "turning point" the exchange of messages between the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Speaking in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here this morning, Shevardnadze also said events of this kind would cause further expansion of good relations between Iran and the Soviet Union in all areas "despite our ideological differences."

The Soviet foreign minister arrived here Saturday and was received by Imam Khomeyni Sunday to deliver a message from Gorbachev in response to an earlier message by the Imam in January. He also met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati later Sunday.

"In our opinion, Iran enjoys high international prestige," Shevardnadze told Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, adding that all members of the Soviet leadership had become acquainted with the imam's "important message" which he said contained "deep contexts" and dealt with "human destiny."

"We have come to the conclusion that it is a must to acknowledge others' beliefs and respect them," he added.

Pointing to his meetings with Iranian officials and the common points of cooperation between the two sides, Shevardnadze said both sides believed that military encounters must be reduced and chemical weapons annihilated worldwide.

Turning to the Iraq-Iran peace talks, he said his country will continue its efforts for progress of the talks and for the establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

Before arriving in Tehran, the Soviet foreign minister visited a number of Middle Eastern capitals, including Baghdad where he held talks with Iraqi leaders.

"We had lengthy talks with the Iraqis and they have said they are decisively in favor of the progress of the peace talks," he stated.

On the Afghan issue, Shevardnadze said "we believe the Afghan people must determine their own fate and Afghanistan should become a neutral, non-aligned and independent state."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Soviet foreign minister said, "we have explicitly announced to the American President that we condemn the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, and we will continue this policy until the Americans withdraw their troops from the region."

In conclusion of his remarks, Shevardnadze said he had been asked by Mr. Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders to "convey to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of Iran, the best wishes of properity and success."

In response, President Khamene'i said Imam Khomeyni's historical message to the Soviet leader marked a "very exceptional point" in international relations and a "turning point" in ties betwen the two "friendly and neighborly" countries of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Pointing to cooperation of the two countries on international and regional issues, as well as in political, economic, technical, military, trade, cultural and scientific areas, the president said the geographical location of the two countries required them to have "extensive cooperation" in many fields.

On Iraq-Iran peace talks, President Khamene'i regretted that the Iraqi Government still refused to pull back its troops from the Iranian territory. "This," he said, "weakens the foundation of any pessimism and indicates there is a state of unwillingness on the Iraqi side towards peace and coexistence."

"If peace in this region is necessary and a matter of interest, then Iraq must be pressured, and we think your government can exert this pressure more than anyone else, in order to meet this logical and reasonable demand," Khamene'i told Shevardnadze. In that case, he added, everything would be resolved—the U.N. resolution would be fully implemented and the region would attain a durable peace.

Despite holding three rounds of peace negotiations since the U.N.-sponsored August ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, efforts to enforce the Security Council Resolution 598 have failed due to Iraqi obstructions.

Only the first part (i.e. ceasefire) of the first article of the resolution passed in July 1987 and accepted by Iran in July last year, has been carried out so far. The resolution stipulates that immediately after the ceasefire, the two sides should withdraw troops to the international boundaries and then exchange all prisoners of war. Iraq says it will not pull back its forces before the dredging of the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) and access to free navigation in the Persian Gulf.

The president reaffirmed Moscow's unchanged stance that foreign forces must leave the Persian Gulf area, and stressed that "we have always told the Americans and the Westerners that their presence here is in itself a cause of unrest."

On Afghanistan, President Khamene'i stated, "at the present stage, is is essential for the people to take hold of their own destiny without sustaining bloodshed and pressures, and we strongly emphasize that the future government in Afghanistan must be non-aligned, independent and popular."

Khamene'i in conclusion asked for more talks between the high-ranking Soviet delegation and Iranian officials, and stressed further expansion of mutual ties.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and ambassadors of the two countries were also present in the meeting.

Editorials on Gorbachev Reply

LD2702074889 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 27 Feb 89

["Press Review"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Monday [27 February] pointing to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Imam Khomeyni, writes:

"In his reply, the Kremlin boss however avoided touching on diametrically opposed ideological points subscribed to by the two nations. Instead he tactfully chose to point to notions that are mutually acceptable and as such can provide a better footing for Tehran-Moscow ties. This he did notwithstanding the fact that in his message to him Imam Khomeyni has criticised Marxism."

Elsewhere the paper urged the Soviet Union to use its pull to persuade Iraq withdraw troops to international borders, a move that it believed, would remove the hurdles in the way of the implementation of Resolution 598.

Commenting on Iran-Soviet rapprochement, another Tehran daly voiced the conviction that "The Kremlin needs to forge better ties with Iran."

Referring to common interests of both countries in various fields and their significance to the region, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL believed that "their policies could be coordinated both at the regional and international level in their fight against imperialism."

The English-language daily also said that "The Islamic Republic of Iran plays a decisive role in the light of the new Soviet initiative for bigger involvement in the Mideast peace efforts."

Another consideration for the Soviet-Iran rapprochement, according to the daily, is the 60 million Muslim population in the Soviet Union.

The paper also believed that the Soviet leader's response to Imam Khomeyni's message delivered to him by the visiting Soviet foreign minister "will impact heavily on the future of Iran-Soviet relations."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, in the end, hoped that "Shevardnadze's visit will result in stronger ties in the future."

TEHRAN TIMES on Ties

LD2602073089 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—The success or failure of the Soviet foreign minister visit to Tehran depends on the message he carried from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for Imam Khomeyni, an Iranian paper said.

The TEHRAN TIMES also said the West's hostile response to the Islamic Republic over "The Satanic Verses" had opened "all doors" for the expansion of Tehran-Moscow ties.

"The success of failure of (Eduard) Shevardnadze's visit hinges upon Gorbachev's response" which remains to be seen whether it "turns out to be ideologically oriented in nature or not," said the English-language daily in an editorial Sunday [26 February]. The daily noted that two principal causes for the deterioration of relations between Iran and Russia—the Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan—had been removed and "the West has pushed its relations with Iran to all all time low."

Thus: "All the doors for the development of cordiality between the two countries have been opened."

As a vivid sign of amelioration of relations, TEHRAN TIMES refers to the participation of military delegations from both countries for the first time in the last joint commission that was held in December in Moscow.

According to the daily, discussions are going on now on "significant arms dealings" between Tehran and Moscow and the issue will futher be taken up with Shevardnadze in his talks with top Iranian leaders.

Commentary Assesses Visit

LD2602130389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1118 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Eduard Shevardnadze, special envoy of the Soviet leader, arrived in Tehran last night to convey a message from Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the USSR, to Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, and also to hold talks with our country's officials about mutual relations and regional issues.

This morning the Soviet foreign minister was received by Imam Khomeyni and conveyed Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the leader of the Islamic revolution. The Soviet leader's message is, in fact, a reply to the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution, which was sent to Gorbachev some time ago. With an ideological content and an instructive tone, the message of the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran drew Mikhail Gorbachev's attention to various solutions open to Soviet society for the future implementation of perestroyka, which includes the economic, sociological, and cultural restructuring of that society.

The message stressed that Western capitalism is not the only solution to the failure of the communist plans for the Soviet UNion; but following divine traditions, within the context of Islamic teachings, it is another solution which that country's policymakers could follow.

The fact that Imam Khomeyni received the Soviet leader's special envoy demonstrates the special attention paid by the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran to the developments in Soviet society and the implementation of perestroyka there.

In addition to presenting Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the leader of the Islamic revolution, the Soviet foreign minister will follow up certain other issues during his trip.

Diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries head the list. From a diplomatic viewpoint, having good-neighborly relations is the most important basis for relations between the two countries. Within that policy economic cooperation in terms of commercial ties and technical cooperation has been expanded. From a regional viewpoint, Iran and the Soviet Union need to discuss several issues, primarily Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. It seems that with the evacuation of Soviet forces from Afghanistan the differences of opinion between Iran and the Soviet Union about the future of Afghanistan have diminished.

In addition, the current position of the Soviet Union about the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf has become similar to our own, as the Soviets have stated they want to see the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

In the meantime, in view of the solution of a number of differences of opinion between the two countries about regional issues and economic and commercial cooperation, the 3-day trip to Tehran by the Soviet foreign minister as the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution and his meetings with our country's high-ranking officials are an important step in the expansion of relations.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on Khomeyni Message

LD2502230489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] The cabinet met this morning. During this session, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi referred to the highly important message of his holiness the imam.

The prime minister said: This message brought light to the eyes and hearts of all revolutionary forces in society and in the state. It created greater motivation in the hearts of the sympathetic, revolutionary forces on the

front and those who laid the foundations for achieving the Islamic revolution's aspirations to become more active in challenging problems.

The prime minister added: Occasionally, it seems that some people are influenced by foreign propaganda and doubt the original slogans of the Islamic revolution. Of course, the objective of this incitement is only an attempt to make the true supporters of the Islamic revolution despondent, to isolate them, and to open the arena for the liberal groups and those who have never been happy with the Islamic revolution. This is why the recent message of his holiness the imam decisively eliminated this incitement with a clear and real judgment in this connection.

He said: The recent message of his holiness the imam stressed that the distinct feature of our system compared with other systems of the world today is that it relies on the same principles and revolutionary Islamic values. If we were to lose these features, we would become the same as other systems, which are appendages trailing behind the United States and global arrogance.

Mr Musavi added: Another point in the imam's message was his holiness' renewed emphasis on the real and serious danger posed to our system by the carefree and comfortable strata and the leech-like capitalists, and the highly crucial issue of observing social justice in all the country's economic and internal policies.

While reiterating the importance of the issues stressed by the imam of the ummah and the importance of the role played by the clergy in the Islamic revolution and in defense of its gains, Mr Musavi expressed the hope that this part of the imam's message will transform seminaries, awaken the clergy, and increase the power of those clergy who believe in the revolution and are committed to its principles and slogans.

In conclusion, Mr Musavi said: At the very least, we should first conclude from this message that there has been a revival of aspirations, principles, and slogans of the Islamic revolution by the government and ministers. We must return more strongly to those moves which strengthen social justice. Despite all the difficulties and shortages facing offices and ministries, this should be taken into consideration in every field—in the government's work, in the budget, in the work of all offices, and in all appointments.

Also during today's Cabinet session, a proposal by the Economy and Finance Ministry was approved on creating and expanding commercial activities in Iran's provinces bordering the Soviet Union and Turkey. On this basis, the cooperatives, retailers, and merchants living in Khorasan and East and West Azarbayjan Provinces are permitted to export the products and manufactured goods of these provinces after coordinating with the relevant authorities and in accordance with the exchange treaty.

In return, they can import licensed commodities required in each province without any need to obtain permits, provided the goods are imported while observing the regulations. According to this bill the transaction limit is fixed at $50,000 for each exporter and $15 million for each province.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2402234989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1524 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 24 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Koranic verses omitted] My previous intention was to summarize the discussion on oppression and the oppressed during my first sermon today so that I could discuss another topic in my next sermon. The events of this week, which were directed by the international oppression and have excited the entire world, made it necessary to talk about the attributes of the oppression this week as well, and then make my summary in the next sermon. I will make the first sermon short as there are many topics to discuss in the next sermon and they may be long. Given the cold and damp weather condition, we do not want to make the sermons long so that the dear prayers participants do not suffer.

As far as the attributes of the oppression are concerned, I quoted over 70 various verses from the Koran in past sermons. Seven or eight such attributes are related to current world events and although I have discussed some of these during my past sermons, I will remind you of them again during this sermon so we can see the attitude of the oppression toward what is sacred in Islam and the leadership of this revolution—a popular revolution—their dastardly attitude toward this leadership today, and what is causing them to be this way. Therefore, we can put current events into the framework of our previous discussions.

The Koranic verse I quoted at the start of my remarks states that [words indistinct] the nature of pharoah [historical despot] made him have such an opinion of himself that he considered himself a god and thus stopped his subjects from attaining the natural evolution toward the goals of creation by making him see beauty in his misdeeds. One of the most common attributes of oppression and the oppressors is that they block the path of God. There are some 46 verses in Koran to this effect.

There are many verses to this effect though they do not necessarily contain the same phrase; yet they have the same meaning. This is the attribute of the majority of the oppressors who do not allow human beings to follow their mental evolutionary path as ordained by God—to go toward God and reach the ultimate goal of humanity. They resort to any means to hold back the people. For example, they dispute the prophets, moral values, honest people, and support the corrupt and deviated people.

I will just discuss a few instances in my notes as these have assumed a special and desirable position. They believe they are doing well either because of their pride, their self-centered attitude, or for other reasons that exist in their impure hearts. [passage omitted] Animosity toward the prophets, a subject we have already mentioned before, has now become clear. The worst sort of animosity can be observed in their action. We can see the level of their hatred toward the holy prophet in the extent of their actions. They are pretenders, deceitful and hypocritical.

Because they cannot show their true nature to the world they are forced to use deceit, pretense, and hypocrisy. We can see what they are resorting to these days: They are resorting to freedom, freedom of speech, defense of the freedom to write, or fighting against terrorism. You see they make use of these phrases which are accepted by society. No just individual supports terrorism. No sane human opposes freedom. These are matters accepted by the world. In the guise of such holy phrases they seek shelter while feeding people their views and inauspicious intentions.

If you are supporters of freedom of speech then why is it that you threaten Muslims who want to air their views even in London? It is strange that the same newspapers that have been such charlatans are now advising the British Government to stop the Muslims, to close mosques. Those who support such freedoms have bombed the mosque where the congregational leader voiced his opinion and destroyed the building. They did this a few days ago. If the supporters of the Islamic Republic had bombed one of their publication centers, what sort of world-wide uproar would they create over such an action? If you are against terrorism, then is bombing a mosque in London not terrorism but closing a mosque where a congregational prayer leader has voiced his opinion is? If an angry Muslim does that to defend his views you consider it terrorism. This is aggression.

They have created a deciteful propaganda uproar world-wide for the sake of the life of one hireling author. But the lives of five or six Pakistani Muslims, who were innocently martyred in front of the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, mean nothing. Why are you so concerned about someone who has not yet been killed, yet those who have been killed, the hundreds who have been wounded and have lost their health, hold no value for you? You lie, and it is quite apparent. Some 5,000 people were innocently martyred as a result of chemical bombs—mothers with children in their arms, children by the side of parents, the sort of scene that brings tears to the eyes of even the cold-hearted.

And you, heartless ones, continued to support them. It became clear later that the Germans had given them the major part of the materials for the chemical weapons. Now the same gentlemen are concentrating thier efforts on behalf of one individual who may in the future receive his just reward. Deceit, hypocrisy, and pretence, all of which are attributes of the oppressors, have reached their height and they are openly displaying these attributes. [passage omitted]

They accuse their enemies of being disruptive, and you can see this. The Muslims and the leaders of the revolution have issued a religious verdict, and the Muslims are defending the holiest family of the world of Islam. They are accused of being terrorists, assassins, and violators of international laws, while those wretched, oppressor, colonialist, deceitful bullies become the champions of safeguarding world principles and order and accuse Iran and the Islamic revolution of disrupting world order while they become guardians of world order. This is one of those pure attributes of the oppressor colonialists. They claim to be reformists.

I have given you a number of examples quoting from Koranic verses before about this, but I want you to understand that in this connection the special attributes of oppression are used together in order to make these moves and precipitate such events. They use the fulcrum of power against their philosophical opposition. This is another one of their attributes and you can see today that because they have industries, because they control public wealth, because they have progressed by usurping the wealth of others, because they control economic weapons, because they control cultural and political weapons, because they control propaganda weapons, they have taken up all material weapons to attack a religion that directly guides 1 billion Muslims and indirectly guides all of humanity.

This is the religion that revived Europe. If there were no Islam, you would have remained in the barbaric state of your Middle Ages. It was during the victory over Andalusians and your presence in the Middle East because of the Crusades that you absorbed Islamic civilization. Now you are opposing Islam and human values and still claim to be reformists. [passage omitted]

There are many issues this week. However, I feel that the most important issue we must talk about is the book "The Satanic Verses" and the events stemming from it, which is the most important current domestic and international issue. Our people definitely need to get a clearer picture of the situation. Before I go into this, I would like to mention a number of other things. [passage omitted]

What I should stress here is that nobody should try to take advantage of Khomeyni's message in the interest of their group, because the message pays attention to all issues—the majority of issues—and many can just use part of the message and create division or raise divisive issues. This is definitely against the spirit of the message. This message should become the main axis of our future; it must be the light that shines the way of the clergy and must be constructive for all of us. Therefore, the mass media must be careful not to become the instruments of groups in these issues.

If such groups do not want to listen to this guidance of the imam, then the mass media must not become their tool, and thus we should be able to use the contents of the message for the direction of the clergy, their policies, organization, ways of thinking and learning, and other issues that are necessary in society. God willing, this will be the way this message will be used. It is very valuable and can be a very valuable charter for our future actions. [passage omitted]

As for the world topic of the day, a significant and perhaps very lengthy and fateful scene of battle has developed between Islam and blasphemy, revolution and arrogance, and Islamic and colonialist movements. This sermon will not be my last on this issue, because we will be involved with this matter at length in the future. We should prepare ourselves for this battle, which is unavoidable; it has begun.

Before I expound on the main issue, I want to give you some details. The point which is clear to many people is that of the animosity of the West or of Western arrogant powers toward Islam; this is nothing new. From the day the Western colonialists harbored the intention of colonizing the Islamic countries—or to be more precise, to demolish and create havoc in the Islamic world—they sensed that they must deal with something called Islam. They realized that as long as Islam is in force, their path will be a difficult one, or may be virtually closed off.

Whoever is familiar with the history of colonialism and the Islamic world knows that whenever they wanted to get a foothold in a place, the first thing they did in order to clear their paths—whether overtly or covertly—was to undermine the people's genuine Islamic morals. I should mention that they were not opposed to Islam's outer appearance, but to the Islam which, as recently interpreted by the imam, is the pure Islam [eslam-e na'ab].

That famous sentence which is probably known by all those who read and was explicitly stated by the British foreign secretary in the British Parliament is: So long as the Koran is revered by Muslims, we will not be able to consolidate a foothold among the Muslims. This is a slip of the tongue by a British politician and entered into his rhetoric. However, this was supposed to have been made in confidence, but somehow became public. This was the axis of the colonialist movement, and Britain was the center of it; it has been so throughout history.

If anybody harbors any doubts about this, he has only to look at what the British or Britain's followers have done—at any juncture, at any time, and in any country—in the Islamic countries; he will notice that this statement is the motto of the Western colonialists and the axis of the movements in the Islamic countries. Of course, if they could deceive people into submitting to colonialism while remaining Muslims, they would have no complaints. But they realized this was not possible. Until recently they were succesful; they were totally successful up to the Islamic revolution. In their own interpretation, they had emasculated Islam; Islam is no longer productive or fruitful; Islam is a cause of stagnation. You can see examples of the Islam to which they refer in many places. For example, the Islam which the imam recently described as the U.S. Islam is the same emasculated Islam which was started by the British; the Islam which is followed by the preachers and kings, the court 'ulema, pseudo-clerics, and all those who caused the imam much consternation and caused him to say in his message: The blood has poured out from your old father's heart due to the blows received from such people. That is the Islam which they want. The kind of Islam that does not interfere with the plans of the United States, Britain, and other countries.

With the advent of the Islamic revolution, pure Islam entered the scene, and all they had done became undone. From the early days of the revolution, they started to wreak havoc. If only we had a few hours to prepare the documents, which could be read out to you here! From those early days, they began to label us as reactionaries, as fundamentalists, and to describe the opponents of the revolution as liberals, progressives, intellectuals, conservative, and so on. At first, they enjoyed some success, because at the time there was an interim government in power. As mentioned in his eminence the imam's message, this is one of our mistakes to which we confess, that we put them in power.

At that time, the British and the Americans thought that they had achieved their aim. However, the interim government was defeated; it could not resist and departed. When they saw it had left, they entered and began to act. The war was ineffective, a coup d'etat was ineffective, the Kurdish uprisings were ineffective. However, they never neglected the cultural war. One of their motives during the war was to portray us as warmongers and responsible for the all bloodshed and destruction. If such a situation had transpired in the world, they would have achieved their goals, they would have been able to distance many people's thoughts from the Islamic revolution, this pure Islam.

First, we always said throughout the war, that we would defend our position, that we would punish the aggressor. We made such pronouncements everywhere, but their voices were louder. When we accepted the UN resolution, thereby closing their path; those who uttered peace became quiet and stopped saying it, and those who said that Iran will not accept, became tongue-tied. They have now become dumb and retreated. It is now our voice that holds the upper hand. We are the plaintiffs. We are the plaintiffs at the United Nations. We are the plaintiffs in all interantional organizations. Our opponents should defend themselves; their supporters should also defend themselves. That weapon too is no longer effective. They were searching for another weapon.

These weapons they had formerly acquired are not difficult to make, but need suitable time. And they found that weapon in the shape of an Indian, whose family was also ready for this. As you have read in the reports, this man's wife recently wrote a book against the prophet Jesus, which caused an uproar there, and the Christians staged an uprising. But they were tools in the hands of the arrogant powers who extinguished the fire quickly because they controlled both sides. Then they provided the base for their action: a book was written. They were aware of the Islamic world's sensitivities: the moral issues, the Koran itself, and Koranic issues. They were aware that these are among the most important issues for which we have great regard, such as the character of his holiness, the prophet, and others. They began their work, they began it according to a plan.

We should not regard this issue superficially. Some people do. They think that, well, this is probably a madman, a simple man, an enemy, or whatever; that he wrote a book, and by chance this book turned out as it did. Then, those who realized that they could profit by this book, confirmed it. Due to the propaganda, this book became famous, hence the occurence of such incidents. We should not treat the issue in this way. Even if we assume that this was the case—which it is not—from the way all the Western leaders suddenly entered the scene in haste and fervor, we can see that they wanted to have such an incident and they welcomed it.

But I have a different opinion. I think they were involved in this from the beginning. This was a plan. Zionism, which practically dominates the Western mass media in the United States as well as in Europe, is the director and the West provides the support. They move like one wave followed by another. It was all coordinated. If this were a simple case, like that of an individual in some corner of the world who had insulted the prophet... [changes thought] God's decree is clear. What his highness the imam graciously declared, God's decree is nothing new. If you read the early writings, you will see that it is written there. You will see it written in the books from the past.

It has been written by the Sunnis, the Shi'ites, in the Arabic as well as in Persian books. It is something which is very clear. There are two punishments: One is for blasphemy, which is insulting and swearing at the prophet; and the other is for apostasy, and this writer qualifies for both. He has been blasphemous, the punishment for which all 'ulema agree is this, and the punishment for apostasy is also clear. His apostasy is inherent, because he comes from a Muslim family. Even countries such as Saudi Arabia have been forced to say that he is an apostate and killing him is incumbant on all. Yesterday, in Algeria, their highest ranking clergy issued the same fatwah [edict]. The others will also do the same. Whoever says no, ignores the Islamic decree.

The issue centers on why imam has entered the scene with such an attitude. If this were a new issue without roots, not designed and preplanned, then it would be sufficient for a court to convene somewhere and declare the verdict of Islam and then whoever agreed would implement it. However, this is not the issue. The issue is deeper than that. Is it possible for a normal piece of fiction to be written and before it is printed and distributed, hundreds of publishing houses across the world in the West and the countries under their influence, buy the distribution rights, spend money, and translate it, and prepare to distribute it?

This does not tally with an empty and normal book. Their plan has been carried out. In this plan many contingencies have been considered and the biggest target is the Islamic revolution in Iran and its leadership, because they know who is striking out at them and therefore, have to make them a target.

There are some mistakes that can be observed in the plan and the scenario that have put their backs to the wall, which I will now describe as a result of these clashes. They made some fundamental errors in their planning. Well, the imam has issued his order. It is one he had previously written in his thesis. It is not something new. Any Muslim could have read the thesis and gone and done his duty. The order was announced. The West started an incredible uproar based on imaginary reasoning.

The Westerners have the weakest reasons. They say two things: They want to protect free speech and they also oppose the intervention of the head of one government in the internal affairs of another country because it is against international rules. They say Rushdie is our citizen, so why have you issued the order for his execution? If he is to be executed then it would be up to us to issue such a verdict in our own country. Let us see if this had any value, if they are honest about it.

I ask the leaders of the West, the 10 or 12 members of the European Economic Community: Would you move in such a way if an author somewhere were deprived of his right to free speech? Can they honestly answer this question: If an Iranian writer wrote a book in your country, without any lies—although you have lied—wrote whatever is happening in your own families, about the events of your lives, your wives, daughters, and mothers, and tells people about them then what is your reaction? Do you truly allow this freedom?

What happens if someone writes about the crimes you are committing around the world, not the superficial things you publish but the crimes that France is committing in Caledonia, the crimes that you are all committing in South Africa, the crimes that you all commit in African countries, all your (?cruelty) and all the things that you hide but are true, then would this be your reaction? Did you react this way to the bomb thrown at the London mosque that destroyed its wall?

If, during the time of the cursed regime of Pahlavi, we did not use false identities to come to countries such as France and England you would have captured us and

handed us over to the Pahlavi court. We have seen your treatment of our students who wanted to be active there against the usurping Pahlavi dynasty. Why do you (?lie) so much? Why do you create such an uproar in the world for the sake of one writer's freedom? You all get together—a conference of 12 large countries in the world—and then say we are recalling our ambassadors.

You insult us. It is obvious you are lying and you know that you are lying. You lie when you say you want to defend freedom. There are hundreds of such violations of freedom in the areas where you hold power. Your servants across the world, all these lackey coutries, the lackey heads of those countries, what are they doing to their nations? How many writers has the Ba'th Party of Iraq slaughtered? [passage omitted]

Right now, what is England doing in Hong Kong, thousands of miles away? Is this not intervention in the affairs of others? You are signing an agreement with China to hand over Hong Kong! What does France want in Caledonia? What did the United States want in Grenada when it landed its forces there? What are you all doing in South Africa? Where in the world are your hands not visible? Do you not interfere in the affairs of others? Is the interference so strong when the verdict of God is declared about one of your citizens, one of your servants, that you have created such an uproar in the world? We have no doubt that you are lying.

Your best statement is that if he is a criminal and has committed a crime, then he should be tried in his own country. Are you prepared to do that? This is an Islamic verdict. In your own country no one has the right to insult the beliefs of other religions; this is your law and it has been violated. Are you prepared to try him? Are you prepared to have the Muslims of London form an Islamic court and issue an Islamic verdict? Why do you lie so much? Stating a view, declaring an edict—and this was not an edict that Iran should come there—we declared the order of God. Every Muslim has this duty and even here you engaged in sophistry and evasion. We are stating our own law, the law of Islam. From his name, his birth certificate, his family, it seems he is a Muslim. If we announce our law, is this interference? You lie and resort to deception. You are incredibly pretentious in this affair. [passage omitted]

Your claims are lies and we know that you are lying. However, you think you have succeeded. I believe you will not succeed. It is a great mistake and this is the second part of my remarks.

Right now you have to answer us. I, as speaker of Majlis, officially ask you whether you support the book "The Satanic Verses" or not? You claim that you are defending your law but you are lying. Give us an answer, because Muslims should know where they stand in the future. We Muslims of the world would like to know whether Western governments, as governments, support the contents of the "The Satanic Verses", in which case we will recognize them as those who are participants in abusing the prophet and thus know our duty. You have to answer this. Right now this is our impression.

Currently, there are more than 1 billion Muslims who have a copy of the Koran in their homes. Those among them who believe in the Koran and believe in action read the Koran in the morning, at night, when praying, and learn from it and act according to it. Those who are not like that respect it as sacred. That 1 billion will become 2 billion tomorrow and 3 billion the day after tomorrow. This issue will remain in history. This matter that you have started will not finish. [passage omitted]

Today, every Muslim censures the courtesan [as heard] 'ulema in Islamic countries and says: Why have you not risen in this issue? Those same people who decreed that anyone who insults the prophet will receive the same punishment should answer. Iran does not need to answer. Iran's action was its answer. Those who have formed governments and rule in the name of Islam, in Islamic countries, should answer to their nations. Of course, they are giving deceiptful answers now. For example, they say: we are approaching the matter logically. What sort of logic is that? [passage omitted]

Although that author is one person, the Muslims believe that you have been accomplices in writing and publishing it and have insulted the prophet. If you have not done so, then say so, so that we know what to do about it. Another issue is that—of which I am almost certain—in addition to this hue and cry, you will force your agents to do some mischief in various corners of the world, so that you can blame it on us and raise more hue and cry. We have said our piece. If we decide to do otherwise, we will say so again, as we have always done.

Every Muslim might carry out his duty. That has nothing to do with the Islamic Republic. Every person will perform his duty in one way or another. That has nothing to do with us. However, what we will do is what we will say we will do. Therefore you must beware. I state here and now that—regardless of what your agents do anywhere in the world to distort the issue or to give an excuse to the uncontrollable world media—we will take responsibility for whatever concerns us. That which does not concern us, if it is what the people have done, is a result of your actions, and if it is what your agents have done and is like everything else that you do and the result of your actions. [sentence as heard]

Now let us see what mistake you made. You thought that through this action of yours, you would place the Islamic Republic and the leader of the revolution in confrontation with the media, writers, publishers, and academicians. First, your mistake was that you rushed onto the scene and exposed yourselves. If you had wanted to do this, it would have been better not to have held the EEC session and for your foreign ministers not to have spoken so frankly. You have cultural means at your disposal; there are many mercenary writers and publishers, and

they could have said all that for you. It became obvious who was against us. Now that it has come to light, you have destroyed the reputation of publishers and writers in the world.

The Western publishers and writers showed that their class and guild prejudices are so dominant that they cannot understand obvious realities of the world. If the European and U.S. publishers and writers cannot understand that this is a colonialistic and deceitful deed and is hostile to a revolution and interference in the affairs of a revolution—not an action in support of a slanderous pen—then they are very stupid. And if they understand, they must accept that class and guild prejudices are predominant and lowers their value and credibility. They should sit together and see what it is that they are supporting. If a writer or a publisher in Iran had written about the scandalous affairs of those held sacred by the West and distributed it and was attacked, whould these same publishers have acted the same way? You know you would not.

You should refer to your conscience. You have been deceived. You have thousands of newspapers, magazines, and loudspeakers at your disposal. You say what you want to say. You make waves. But all this is not prudent. There are people who can judge and ask what is behind all this hue and cry? What are you after? Why are you talking like this? You, who raise such a hue and cry about threats to a writer, what did you do about the martyrdom of a writer, such as Sadr in Iraq? Those days when thousands of Iranian writers were enslaved by the Iraqi regime, you were not concerned about those writers.

They were being tortured and you knew it. What did you do about it? It is obvious that you are lying, because you have suddenly formed societies and do this and that. You are disgracing yourselves with your actions. Anyway, what will be the result? Are you trying to say that the Islamic Republic is confronting literary men? You are creating a form of cultural and literary tradition and the criterion is freedom. We will see how the future will judge this. We believe that we wil be victorious in this struggle. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

When the world Muslims—those who are devoted to Islam, the prophet, and the imams, and those who respect the sanctity of the prophet—read this book, they will not see a mad Indian behind it, they will see Britain, Germany, France, and the United States. They see you who have published this book. You fools, you are setting a precedence. From now on this book will be the symbol of judgment between the Islamic revolution and you. With your propaganda you have created two clear-cut camps in the world: on one side the Islamic Revolution has risen, led by its greater leader, and says the author and publishers of this book have committed treason against the history and resources of mankind; on the other side, you say that they have broken a writer's pen. That is what you say. How will the readers judge this? We are not trying to win you over. The best among you are your writers and they behave like this. We want to penetrate the hearts of pure Muslims. The Islamic Revolution would never recruit its army from among the likes of you, or even the liberals inside the country. Those we wish to recruit are those who would become soldiers of Islam after reading this book. [crowd chants]

It was a cursed political move. Thanks to his wisdom and intelligence, the imam understood it and entered the scene. The imam could have told me to give the same reply in the Friday prayers sermon. He could have ordered a court to issue the same verdict, but that would not have been sufficient. It was a well-planned and designed scheme. Since they planned the scheme it backfired on them. Eventually, one day these mischiefs will come to an end; one day the wakeful consciences of the world will sit in judgement; one day people will look at this book and see this insult and realize how empty those people who have jumped on this bandwagon in the name of culture, literature, arts, and freedom are.

In any case, we have acted in accordance with our duty. You have called it interfering in other people's affairs; that is a lie. You interfere a lot more in other people's affairs. You have called it fighting against penmanship; that is a lie. You do not accept that freedom either. Provoking the feelings of others and insulting the holy people of others are not permitted anywhere; it is not allowed in your countries. You can stop it with your laws. You are behaving prejudicially and foolishly; you are confused and do not know what you are doing.

You have started something and are all tied up in it. We are dealing with the issue from a position of strength and with carefully laid plans. Concerning your usual threats of severing ties and so forth, we have never thought and will never think it necessary to have ties with you. We believe that Islamic Iran will make its impact in the world, say its piece, and act in accordance with international norms. Whenever you volunteered and severed your ties with us, we did the same. That is, we know you are afraid of us; we are not afraid of you. You are afraid of our cultural presence in your countries. [crowd chants]

During the past 10 years—despite having severed ties with many of you, despite your hostilities and all the help you gave our enemy, Iraq, and despite all your conspiracies while we were at war and in the process of our revolution—we proved that Iran can stand on its own two feet and that such threats really have no effect on us. We are not just saying that to make our people happy. Perhaps once we have severed relations with you we will be able to tell our people that this is how we should live, and these people would be able to stand on their own two feet and create a society to show the world that, without any ties with the West, they could live in a country and have a peaceful life. You can be certain that such threats

will be detrimental to you. Even if it creates some problems for others, it will be temporary and will be followed by prosperity, freedom and greatness. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Majlis To Vote on Severing Ties With UK

LD2602100989 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Majlis will vote on a bill to break diplomatic ties with London in protest against britain's hostile reaction to Iran's stand against "The Satanic Verses", condemned as blasphemous by Muslims.

The bill, proposed by more than 100 deputies under a double-urgency motion, was passed overwhelmingly in its first reading Sunday.

The bill will now have priority consideration in the next Majlis session, due Tuesday.

Britain, protesting against Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] ordering the execution of British author Salman Rushdie as an apostate, withdrew all its five diplomats, including Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Browne from Tehran last week.

The move went further than the 12-member European Community foreign minister's decision last Monday to pull out their ambassadors from the Islamic Republic in solidarity with London. Iran retaliated by recalling its envoys in EC countries.

British officials, however, indicated that the diplomatic boycott, for the time being, would not lead London to break its ties with Tehran.

London reopened its embassy here last December, after nine years during which Sweden took care of British interests. Relations began to improve since last spring when a delegation of British members of Parliament visited Tehran for the first time since the revolution.

Under double urgency regulation, the Majlis bill will be on top of the agenda in its next session. If approved by the nearly 270-member Majlis, the bill would then be immediately considered for final approval by the 12-man Council of Guardians who will be present during the deliberations.

On Saturday Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami called on the prime minister to cut Iran's ties with British and boycott British products. He also urged the government not to upgrade relations with the rest of the EC as long as they continued to support Britain's stand over "The Satanic Verses".

Speaking in a seminar of governor generals, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi proposed next Monday, the anniversary of the start of Muhammad's (peace be upon him) prophethood, be declared the day for the defence of Islam and the prophet.

Rushdie, 41, is in hiding in Britain where his book was first published by Viking-Penguin last September.

On February 15, over 10,000 [number as received] demonstrated in front of the British Embassy in Tehran condemning London for allowing the publication of the book which blatantly insults Islam's most holy figures.

During the demonstration Majlis deputy Fakhreddin Hejazi said in a speech that Britain was "the enemy of the Koran and Islam... and Iranians are disgusted from having relations with such a country."

No UK Response on Decision

LD2602150589 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpts] London, Feb. 25 [date as received], IRNA—The Foreign Office is examining Sunday's [26 February] decision by the Majlis to vote on breaking diplomatic ties with London but does not expect to comment on the move until at least Monday. A spokesman told IRNA Sunday that only after careful consideration would the government be saying anything "if it had anything to say." There would certainly be no immediate formal response. [passage omitted]

The Majlis earlier overwhelmingly passed the first reading a double-urgency motion to sever relations that was proposed by over 100 deputies in the 270-seat assembly. It voted to give the bill priority consideration at the next Majlis session on Tuesday, when the Council of Guardians will be in attendance to immediately deliberate on any decision.

The move comes after 12-days of a deepening conflict between the two countries over the British Government allowing the publication of Salman Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses," that has been condemned by Muslims worldwide as blasphemous. [passage omitted]

Throughout the conflict, British officials have maintained that it was not seeking to completely break ties with Iran and preferred to have good relations. They argued in the present circumstances, when the leader of the Islamic Republic had issued a fatwah on the life of Rushdie, who is currently in hiding in Britain, there could be "no substance" in the relations.

Political commentators here believe the Majlis vote is a foregone conclusion and that Britain has little choice than to seek further support from its European allies unless there is a dramatic reversal to the London government's attitude to the book.

Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday called on EC governments to clarify their stand on the contents of the book itself.

UK Foreign Office Note on Status of Relations

LD2402192589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Following the recall of the British ambassador and charge d'affaires of the British Embassy by that country's Foreign Office, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London also informed the British Foreign Office that within the context of the recall of the Iranian ambassador and charge d'affaires by the Iranian Foreign Ministry for consultations, he will also return to Tehran this week.

The British Foreign Office handed a note to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London which said that as the result of recent developments in relations between the two countries, Britain has not severed her relations and has no intention of doing so.

In this note, the British Foreign Office stressed that the employees of the Consulate and Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London will continue to enjoy diplomatic immunity as before and no one will be allowed to enter those premises.

UK Home Secretary Urges Muslims To Accept Law

LD2402181489 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 24, IRNA—Home Secretary Douglas Hurd has urged Muslims in the U.K. to accept the rule of British law amid growing recognition of the correctness of Imam Khomeyni's religious decree on the life of author Salman Rushdie for blaspheming Islam. He admitted that Muslims had been hurt by Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" but stressed that all should observe the law.

"Neither the government nor the British public wish to injure or mock religious beliefs" he maintained but stressed that nothing was more a threat to racial harmony that the indifference of Muslims to the law, which was a fundamental principle that Britain stood for.

Everyone had the "responsibility to strive for racial peace and mutual tolerance" based on a respect for the law that was the "rock" where harmony must be maintained, he told worshippers gathered at Birmingham's central mosque, central England, Friday.

The course was not to turn to such wholly unacceptable protests, which he called the "threat of violence" but to resort to the law.

The rising furor among Britain's 1.5 million Muslim community has been burning on a slow fuse since Rushdie published his novel last September. High feelings reached a climax last week with many openly expressing support for Imam Khomeyni's fatwah.

The publication has presented the government with its biggest problem from Muslims since they came as immigrants in the 1960s and Hurd maintained that he was aware how grieved, hurt and insulted they had felt by the book.

Majlis Speaker and Acting Armed Forces Commander in Chief Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday called on Western governments to clarify their stand on the book itself rather than deviating to the issue of freedom of expression.

The European Community, in an expression of solidarity with Britain, recalled their ambassadors from Tehran earlier in the week. Britain withdrew all five of its diplomatic staff.

Hurd said Muslim entitlement was "to speak out in defence of their religion and to protest" about the book that they believe denigrates Islam, but not to make "threats of death... vicious and repugnant to any civilized man or woman."

The dominant tradition in Britain was "Western, Christian and liberal" and the question was having the right relationship with belief and cultures of others.

Recent events should make Muslims reflect on what it means to "settle" in Britain and where there was a need for greater social integration and the bringing up of children to fit into British society, he said.

On Thursday a Briton described by his lawyer as a "senior and important" diplomat was remanded on bail of pounds 125,000 in connection with a petrol-bomb attack on London's largest mosque in Regents Park. The attack was seen linked with the growing controversy over Rushdie's book.

Agrees To Prosecute Protesters

LD2402182789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The British home secretary agreed to the request by that country's police authorities to prosecute and try the Muslims who protested the publication and distribution of "The Satanic Verses." According to the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT, the British home secretary secretly agreed to the prosecution of the Muslim supporters of the Islamic Revolution and thus paved the way for confronting revolutionary elements.

The DAILY EXPRESS also reported today that the British Government will not support under any circumstances the opening of Islamic schools in England; it is particularly against the separation of boys and girls in educational institutions.

According to news agencies, yesterday after a telephone call to the Iranian Embassy that a bomb was planted there, the embassy was searched but nothing was found. On Wednesday [22 February], London's biggest mosque was attacked with a fire bomb by a English person.

Heckled by Angry Muslims

LD2502145789 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 25, IRNA—Britain's Home Secretary Douglas Hurd faced a wrath of Muslim hostility Friday when he refused to give grounds on demands to ban the controversial book "The Satanic Verses" and prosecute its author Salman Rushdie.

As a government minister, he maintained he had "no power to censor books," and it was not for him to condemn the novel that blasphemes Islam. He further ruled out reviewing laws that would allow publishers and writers be brought to account.

His comments drew angry response and heckling from his audience at Birmingham central mosque, central England, where earlier he tried to lecture Muslims on what he saw as a need for their greater integration into British society.

Hurd was one of the panelists that awarded the book with the Whitbread Brewery Prize for fiction but maintained that his personal view was that it was "not a great book." After reading it, he said he could understand why Muslims were so shocked and angry.

His arrival at the mosque, the largest of 60 in the city, was met with a barrage of Muslim protesters, while demonstrations went ahead elsewhere against what is by far the fiercest campaign by Muslims since the community started arriving in large numbers as immigrants in the 1960s.

Coachloads of Muslims converged on the north-west English city of Manchester Friday to demand the book is immediately withdrawn and demonstrations continued Saturday in the Midlands city of Nottingham.

Foreign Ministry Cancels UK, FRG Visits

LD2502144589 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Iran has cancelled two scheduled visits by Iranian and German officials as protest against the "hostile" stand of the West German Government toward Iran and world Muslims. Housing Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni was to visit Bonn and a West German Government official was due in Tehran shortly.

A communique released by the Foreign Ministry Saturday also said that a scheduled industrial exhibition by 60 British firms which was to be held in Tehran in March has been cancelled by Iran in protest against Britain's "disrupting propaganda against the sanctities of world Muslims."

Muslim heretic Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel has soured relations between the Islamic Republic and the 12-member (West) European Community especially Britain where the Indian born author lives.

Montazeri Stresses Positive Results of Decree

LD2402172189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Supreme Court President Mr. Musavi-Ardabili met and conferred with the deputy leader [Ayatollah Montazeri] this morning. In this meeting they discussed the decisive position of the imam of the ummah regarding the Zionist conspiracy behind the publication of "The Satanic Verses" and the international and important repercussions of the decree of the imam of the ummah. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed the positive results of this decisive position for Islam and the Muslims.

Praises Khomeyni for Edict

LD2502093489 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—A highly-revered Iranian religious leader today lauded Imam Khomeyni's "firm stance" against the publication of "The Satanic Verses" and described the work as a "new conspiracy of arrogance and gobal blasphemy."

In a message to Imam Khomeyni, his designated successor Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri also regretted that Arab governments "which pretend to be Islamic," had remained silent vis-a-vis "this great plot" or "have aligned with global blasphemy."

He also deplored "imperialist governments and international organizations which in the name of defending human beings, are backing a man who is against God and against values, but (they) ignore the religious sentiments of one billion Muslims as well as the savage attacks and massacres of thousands of innocent people in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere."

"This (the imam's stance) once again exposed the real face of imperialist governments as well as their ominous designs against Islam and Muslims, and displayed the stability and resolution of the leadership of Islam and the revolution, and the power of the nations and forces faithful to Islam and its sanctities," he said.

Imam Khomeyni last week decreed death sentence for Salman Rushdie, the Indian born British author of "The Satanic Verses" because as an authoritative religious leader he believed the book blasphemes Islam.

He also urged Muslims all over the world to kill Rushdie despite his apparent apology to Muslims for hurting their sentiments and the trouble he has caused in the Islamic world where in India and Pakistan at least 17 Muslims have been killed in clashes with security forces following protest rallies.

The imam's fatwah has also caused a diplomatic row between the Islamic Republic and the West. The 12-nation European Economic Community this week recalled its ambassadors and senior representatives from Tehran in protest to the Rushdie's death sentence, and Iran immediately retaliated the move by ordering its envoys to the EEC nations to return home for consultation.

In an important message issued (in full) on Thursday, Imam Khomeyni while outlining the country's future strategy, stressed that threats of economic sanctions and other embargoes would not force Iran to retreat from its position.

The imam also strongly defended Iran's war strategy and its general policies over the past decade and made it clear that the Islamic state did not need extensive ties with the West because he said "they may think we are so dependent and interested in them that we would quietly and calmly pass by insults against our religious beliefs and sanctities."

Ayatollah Montazeri said "these (Western) governments blindly thought that the Iranian nation, after (tolerating) pressures of the imposed war years, economic sanctions, and missile attacks, has lost the strength to counter global blasphemy, but Your Excellency's powerful and firm leadership together with the sacrifice and political-religious maturity of our nation, thanks God, proved that this colonialist assumption was wrong, and God willing... we will honorably come out of this great test too."

Ayatollah Montazeri was all praise for the imam's message and said "it inspired the nation and the 'ulema with a new life" and "it is the best axis to decide the policy of the 'ulema and officials of the country and the revolution, in internal and external dimensions."

"In your message, Your Excellency very well portrayed the hostility of the arrogant world with Islam and the revolution, and showed that imperialist governments, regardless of their type, can never be trusted... and that one should not expect anything from them except inflicting of blows, injecting of fatal poisons, and plundering of wealth, even (the expectation) in the form of loans, aid and sympathy.

"Instead, it is the Muslim, oppressed and deprived peoples of the world who must be trusted and with them we must consolidate our mental and cultural ties of Islam and the revolution.

"From the very early days of the revolution's victory, Your Excellency raised the slogan of exporting the revolution and the cry of "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine," thus attracting the hearts of the oppressed and the deprived towards the center of the revolution. And it was these cries that put the peoples of Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, and other regions, into motion, and crushed the mythological power of the superpowers."

"And it was in this same connection that in order to fulfill this great goal of Your Excellency, I repeatedly reminded friends and officials that the mental and spiritual horizon of the revolution and its leadership, must not be restricted to the (ruling) system and inside the country and the government.

"I told (them) that since our revolution relies on Islam and the 'ulema, it has no limit and boundary, and that arrangements should be made so that the Islamic world as well as all the deprived and the downtrodden could somehow be linked to the main center of this great movement which has disturbed the world's present equations..."

Elsewhere, Ayatollah Montazeri vowing allegiance to the imam, said "Our dear nation, as well as Islam's revolutionary forces who have so far tolerated much pressures and bitter events in the scenes of defending Islam and the country, are ready to join their beloved leader and to patiently and resistantly stand against the enemies who are assaulting Islam, the Koran and their religious sanctities, and overcome the guileful enemy who has no aim but to weaken Islam, inshallah."

Ayatollah Montazeri said if he sometimes issued recommendations to or criticized the officials of the country, it was because he wanted the committed and revolutionary forces to remain in the scene and not be offended as a result of certain wrong policies adopted by those authorities.

The ayatollah also regretted to admit that "fossilized and non-combatants" individuals had infiltrated state organs "and in all likelihood played a major role in drawing up of the current affairs and policies."

Therefore, he proposed to the imam, the formation of a board of "the most powerful, revolutionary, combatant and persecuted persons who are not under the influence of a certain line... to inspect judicial, executive and other various organizations to identify and encourage the good servants and hezbollahis... and at the same time prevent obstructions by opportunist elements..."

"Our great revolution... is not vulnerable from outside and by military plots, war, the Monafeqin (hypocrites), as well as by economic sanctions of leaders of blasphemy, the EEC, and by pressures of the superpowers and the Zionists.

"What would perhaps strike the revolution is that revolutionary and anguished people as well as those faithful to the revolution, may gradually leave the scene as a

result of incorrect and unjust actions and (after subjected to) various labels... and be replaced by non-combatant and opportunist individuals..."

Ayatollah Montazeri once again underlined the need for using committed experts for running the affairs of the country.

He said although he was engaged in theological studies in the holy city of Qom and was not involved in state politics, but [as received] he would not hesitate to forward his constructive ideas to the officials for the improvement of the affairs.

Rally To Support Khomeyni Edict Set for 26 Feb

LD2402154489 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Qom, Feb. 24, IRNA—The Qom Theology Teachers' Association Friday [24 February] called on 'ulema and theology students to participate in a rally Sunday in support of Imam Khomeyni's recent message.

Earlier Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the imam's strong message addressed to the 'ulema Wednesday, should not be exploited for personal purposes.

In a statement the teacher's association called for active participation in the "rally of reaffirming allegiance to Imam Khomeyni."

In his message the imam called on the 'ulema to keep united and be vigilant as the guardians of the Islamic revolution.

Confrontations between the 'ulema "in whatever form, be it in severe pessimism towards high officials or the lining up between (the followers of) traditional and dynamic fiqh [religious jurisdiction] and the like, will... scatter everything to the wind," the imam told the 'ulema.

But the imam advised the 'ulema and theology students to refrain from "extreme and revolutionary action" as a result of his message. "The point is to be aware of the issues and to choose the path with insight," the imam said in the message.

Speaking at Friday prayer in Tehran, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said many could "stick to the message and say divisive things", but he called on the mass media not to allow such exploits. "Let there be no one starting to misuse (the message) for his group interests," he stressed. "The message should be a guiding torch, constructive."

'Tumultuous' Rally Held

LD2602163189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Excerpt] In response to the sensitive and valuable message of the imam of the ummah addressed to the 'ulema and the clergy, and in response to the invitation of the management council, the association of the teachers, the Islamic publicity office, and other centers affiliated with Qom Seminary, the lecturers, religious students, Iranian and non-Iranian clergy residing in the seminary, and other strata of the committed and revolutionary people of the holy city of Qom, attended the unprecedented and tumultuous march this morning, a march of "O imam, we respond to thy call." They once again announced their unstinting support for the great leader of the Islamic revolution, and while expressing support for the instructive message of the imam of the ummah, they declared their readiness to assist in the realization of the constructive orders of the great leader in Islamic society, particularly in the seminaries.

The countless groups of marchers, whose numbers increased gradually, gathered at Imam Hasan 'Askari Mosque and its surrounding streets, carrying pictures of the imam of the ummah and the deputy leader and some posters in support of the recent message of the imam of the ummah. They began chanting such crushing slogans as "American-style Islam is the Islam of the arrogants, and the pure Islam of Ahmad [Muhammad] is the Islam of the oppressed," "O imam, O imam, we heard your message and we obey it with our lives," "The honor of a Muslim depends on his religion and obeying Khomeyni will secure this honor," and "Down with America."

The marchers, who had come along previously marked routes, gathered in Qom Seminary and issued a 12-point resolution declaring the unstinting support of the seminaries and the committed and revolutionary clergy of the entire world for the basic principle of the absolute rule of jurisprudence as the 1000-year-old backing for Shi'ism, whose manifestation is His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni. They pointed out that any negligence in implementing the decrees and orders of the great leader and the deputy leader is an unforgivable sin.

The marchers also expressed their all-embracing support for the enlightening message of the imam of the ummah, and while expressing their disavowal for the fossilized and sanctimonious clergy and the affiliated 'ulema, they called on the responsible authorities and religious students from the seminary and the special court in charge of dealing with affairs of the clergy not to hesitate to identify and try these groups in order to clear the seminary's name. While expressing gratitude for the long struggle of the clergy and seminaries as the pioneers of the Islamic revolutionary movements, in support of the deprived barefoot ones and the honorable families of the martyrs, the disabled, and the POW's, they called upon the responsible authorities of the system and those in charge of the mass media and the press to remove vigilantly the ideological and political influence of the hireling liberals from every sphere and deprive them of the chance of spreading poison.

In another part of the resolution, the marchers expressed respect for the grand ayatollahs, the great leader, and the lecturers and management cadre of the seminary and

stressed the need to safeguard the sanctity and honor of the sympathetic members of Islam and the revolution. The marchers asked that they in return increase contacts with the young strata of the seminary, the revolutionary 'ulema, and those religious students who have served on the front. They also asked that all sincere and creative forces in the path serving the lofty aspirations of the revolution be employed.

While condemning publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and expressing support for the death sentence against Salman Rushdie, the hireling author of this book, the resolution paid tribute to the innocent martyrs of Pakistan and India who lost their lives in the struggle against the new conspiracy of colonialism and global arrogance. And in joining with other Muslims of the world, they declared their readiness to carry out the sentence of Salman Rushdie's execution.

Concluding their resolution, the marchers condemned the baseless and biased interpretations of the enemies and ignorant groups on the outcome of the imposed war and reiterated the readiness of the seminary to set up the great congress of the clergy from all over the country to investigate the achievements and objectives of the clergy and seminaries. They further stressed the need for continuation of the clergy's mobilization. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Western Media, Rushdie Issue

NC2502115689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Excerpts] Even though the West's propaganda machinery and press circles have had sufficient opportunities in recent days to atone for their mistaken, initial position on "The Satanic Verses," nevertheless, facts attest to the existence of a special kind of disorderly confusion among these circles. Actually, this stems from their initial confusion following the imam of the ummah's decree on Salman Rushdie, and it has upset propaganda strategy and coordination among the industrial countries' news agencies. These news agencies, in turn, have—unintentionally and unknowingly—inspired movements that are working in the opposite direction from their objectives. [passage omitted]

The mistake that the mass media of the arrogant powers is still facing is that in a vast news dissemination effort they tried in every way possible to portray the writing and publication of "The Satanic Verses" as a natural and normal phenomenon, and to portray the attacks against it as illogical and unprincipled. They neglected the fact that under present conditions such propaganda yields results that are practically in direct opposition to the objectives of the book and, in addition to the further awakening of the Muslims, this propaganda ultimately leads to a further introduction of Islam in the world today.

The Western mass media's defense of "The Satanic Verses" and the hasty steps by European countries and the United States have led to increased solidarity among the world's pro-Islamic forces. Moreover, it has clarified the existence of two types of forces—the pro-Islamic and the anti-Islamic. On the one hand, we have the oppressed and the deprived with their slogan of "Muhammad's Corps is coming." On the other, we have the world devourers with penitent faces but with hearts full of spite who are continuing their unequal fight.

A summation of the recent days' reports shows Muslims have risen in protest of the publication of Salman Rushdie's insulting book, both in Islamic and non-Islamic countries, and that they have condemned European countries and the United States for supporting the publication of this book.

Such actions threaten, more than anything else, the West's interests and the pro-Western puppet regimes. Also, the expansion of these actions can pave the way for the disintegration of the world's hegemonistic system.

Papers Comment on Relations With UK, West

LD2702092189 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Political circles regard the approval by the Majlis of a double-urgency motion of a bill on breaking ties with Britain as "a coodinated and appropriate move against leaders of West's conspiracy against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran," said a Persian daily today.

ABRAR said in an editorial that the Iranian parliament's response to West's diplomatic activities against Iran, showed that despite its (West's) propaganda to question Iran's foreign policy, this policy is based on principles that the country's independence rest upon.

The Majlis on Sunday approved in its first reading a bill, proposed by more than 100 deputies under a double-urgency motion to break diplomatic ties with London in protest against Britain's hostile reaction to Iran's stand against "The Satanic Verses," condemned as blasphemous by Muslims. Under double-urgency regulations, the bill will be on top of the agenda of the next Majlis session, Tuesday.

What Majlis deputies did, the paper believed, in fact showed their sensitivity that people's sanctities must be respected. West should have realised by now that it could never obtain an "unbalanced and irrational" relationship as long as a strong bond exists between people and the leadership.

"The people and the officials here are well aware of the (country's) foreign policy dictum and would not let them be harmed even though this would cost them repturing of ties with the West, concluded ABRAR.

Another Persian daily, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commenting on the same subject said approval of the bill could be a practical step towards materialisation of Imam Khomeyni's instructions and a good response to those statesmen who were still dreaming of the golden days of "Great Britain", those who were not ready to believe a revolution has taken place in Iran and an Islamic state is in power—a state that would never sacrifice its beliefs and those of its people to relations with this or that government.

The TEHRAN TIMES also in an editorial commented on the subject saying: "This move taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran may be taken to signal ample warning to other European and Western countries, which displayed a rash diplomacy in diplomatically boycotting Iran."

Mir Salim Attends Hirohito Funeral in Tokyo

LD2302175989 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23, IRNA—High presidential adviser Mostafa Mir Salim arrived here Thursday to attend the funeral ceremony of Japan's late Emperor Hirohito on behalf of President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Hirohito died of duodenum cancer last January 7 at the age of 87, and as per tradition is to be buried tomorrow. Representatives from 163 countries and 27 international organizations are attending his funeral.

Mir Salim arrived here from China where he opened the Islamic Republic's consulate general in the leading port city of Shanghai.

Mohtashemi Notes Presidential Election Dates

LD2502121689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] The interior minister, ['Ali Akbar Mohtashemi] in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Sari, said: Presidential elections will be held next Mordad [23 July to 22 August 1989].

Mr Mohtashemi added: All preliminaries for holding the presidential elections have been arranged. The exact date for the elections will be declared in conjunction with the Council of Guardians.

The interior minister stressed: Elections of Islamic councils will also be held throughout the country after the presidential elections.

Commenting on the activities of parties and groups in the country, he said: Societies which intend to serve the people and want to have a part in the fate of the country may engage in activity under the shadow of the Law of Political Parties and Freedoms, which is explained in the Constitutional Law.

Referring to the achievements of the enforcement of the new campaign against narcotics, as well as the arrest of vast number of groups engaged in the trade in death, Mohtashemi declared: The extent of committing prohibited acts [monkarat] as well as social corruption has been reduced in society following the decisive verdicts passed by the judicial courts.

Rules Out Candidacy

LD2502175189 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—The fifth presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be held next August, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said. The exact date will be announced after coordination with the Council of Gurdians.

He said after the presidential elections, elections for local and regional councils will be held. No exact date was given in Mohtashemi's interview printed in the daily KEYHAN today.

According to Article 114 of the Constitution, President 'Ali Khamene'i, Iran's third president since 1980, cannot stand for a third term.

Mohtashemi ruled out his own candidacy.

Earlier this month, following wide spread speculation, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he may be a candidate.

Also former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan said his Iran Freedom Movement Party would take part in the elections if the political climate was "appropriate".

Pakistan

Demonstrations in Islamabad District Banned

BK2502112589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad administration has reminded the people that Section 144 is in force in the federal capital territory. Under the orders, gathering of five or more persons, taking out a procession, and holding demonstrations at any public place within the limits of Islamabad District are banned. No person, other than the members of the Armed Forces and police on duty, shall carry firearms, spears, daggers, and hatchets within the limits of the territory.

AFP Notes Warning

BK2602005889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1807 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—The government "reminded" the public Saturday that all public meetings were still banned in Islamabad, saying it had learnt that demonstrations were being planned for the capital in the next few weeks.

In a terse statement, the Information Department said the "government does not intend to permit any persons to violate the ban."

"It has been learnt that certain quarters are planning to hold public meetings and rallies in Islamabad during the coming weeks," said the statement, without explaining what type of demonstrations were expected.

"The public is reminded that under Section 144 ... all demonstrations, public meetings and processions are banned in the Islamabad capital territory."

The message did not elaborate and the Interior Ministry offered no comment. The warning was carried without commentary by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN and repeated on the evening news on television.

Top religious leaders were meeting Saturday in the northeastern city of Lahore near India, sources said.

A ban on public meetings in the capital was imposed prior to opposition calls for nationwide demonstrations on February 17 against British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

Demonstrations were held on that day in other major cities. In nearby Rawalpindi demonstrators attacked the offices of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Islamabad was the scene of the February 12 demonstrations that sparked the current Rushdie affair. Six people were killed and more than 100 injured when police shot at thousands of demonstrators.

"The Satanic Verses" has been widely condemned by Moslems, who say it blasphemes Islam. Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has called on Moslems to search out and kill Mr. Rushdie, who has gone into hiding.

Twelve people were killed and more then 50 were injured in protests against the book Friday in India's western city of Bombay.

Explosion at British Council Library Kills 1

BK2702001489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2333 GMT 26 Feb 89

[By Masood Shah]

[Excerpt] Karachi, Feb 26 (AFP)—An explosion killed a security guard in the British Council Library compound here late Sunday and police said Islamic fundamentalists might be behind the attack. Police sealed off the compound and security at the British and U.S. missions and offices of Western airlines here was stepped up after the explosion.

(In London, the government-sponsored British Council said it was "very concerned" over the attack and added that it was quite possible that the blast was connected with British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses.")

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted a local official as saying: "Today at about 9:45 p.m. (1645 GMT) a medium intensity explosive device went off adjacent to the entrance of the British Council Library on Bleak Road. As a result, the guard room collapsed and a security guard lost his life.

"The district magistrate... reached the spot immediately with a bomb disposal squad. The area has been properly searched by the bomb disposal squad after due cordoning off to ensure public safety," the official added.

Eyewitnesses said they had seen a car speeding away from the library building just after a loud explosion rocked the compound. According to the witnesses the blast occurred about 10:45 p.m. (1745 GMT).

Police said they later found the remains of a security guard who had been hit by the full force of the blast and added that the British facility had been closed at the time and the main building was not damaged.

They said members of Islamic fundamentalist groups that have been protesting against Mr. Rushdie's novel might be behind Sunday's attack.

Moslems say the book, which is banned in this predominantly Islamic nation, blasphemes the Prophet Muhammad and have demanded a world-wide ban on its sale.

No arrests had been made by late Sunday but sources said police were carrying out raids in various parts of the city in a bid to round up suspects.

Qaim Ali Shah, chief minister of Sind Province, visited the library after the blast and told reporters the government would provide full protection to all British interests in this city, Pakistan's largest.

(A British Council official in London said: "We are very concerned. But I don't think there is any question of us withdrawing from the area."

(He added that the affair may be linked to the bitter opposition sparked in many Moslem countries by the publication of "The Satanic Verses."

(The British Council official said the organization, which sets up British cultural services outside the country, had not so far received any threats in connection with the publication of book.

(However he confirmed that staff in Karachi, including two Britons, had been told to take extra security precautions because of the unrest caused by reactions to the book.) [passage omitted]

Islamabad Reports Explosion

BK2702023989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0207 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi Administration says there was an explosion of moderate intensity near the entrance of the British Council on (Belief House Road) last night, resulting in the collapse of the guard room and the death of a security guard.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah arrived on the scene immediately after the explosion. He expressed sympathy with the family of the deceased and said officials concerned have been directed to make a full inquiry into this incident.

Benazir Bhutto Returns From Japan 26 Feb

BK2602024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad this morning after a 3-day visit to Japan, where she attended the last rites for the late Emperor Hirohito.

During her stay in Tokyo, the prime minister had detailed talks with U.S. President George Bush on bilateral and international issues. In addition, she also met with other personalities and had similar talks. She had detailed discussions with Japanese leaders on bilateral cooperation in economic and commercial fields. She also met with Pakistanis residing in Japan.

No 'Premature' Recognition of Rebel Government

BK2602163189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister has said her government plans to tackle unemployment on war footing. Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi, Ms Benazir Bhutto said the Ministry of Finance is working on plans to create maximum number of jobs for the unemployed. She referred to steps taken by the PPP government since assumption of power, including opening of a computerized placement bureau in the Ministry of Labor and Manpower to locate suitable jobs for applicants. The prime minister also referred to the 2 billion-rupee people's program launched in the country generating jobs in every district. These jobs will be provided to local people only so as to create a regional balance in employment.

About her meeting with the managing director of IMF in Tokyo, Ms Benazir Bhutto described it as most constructive and said she placed before the IMF Pakistan's agenda for cutting deficit financing and monetary expansion as these lead to inflation. Her government believes that it is in our economic interest to put an end to inflation as it leads to a price hike.

Replying to a question about the center-Punjab relationship, the prime minister said political differences existed in democratic societies in every country and should be accepted as part of democratic norms.

Welcoming the formation of the interim government by Afghan mujahidin, the prime minister said it cleared the way for a political settlement in Afghanistan. This also demonstrates the unity of different groups of mujahidin.

The prime minister said the intention of the mujahidin to have as broad-based a government as possible was shown by the fact that they have left their doors open for Iran-based mujahidin as well as Muslims from Kabul.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the question of recognition of the interim Afghan government by Pakistan is premature. She pointed out that the Afghans themselves had described it as an interim government.

Ishaq Khan Congratulates Members of Afghan Shura

BK2502024789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has congratulated the Afghan mujahidin's Islamic alliance and the members of the Afghan shura for their success at the talks. In a message to the Afghan shura, he said that this success reflects the aspirations of the Afghan people and a new step toward a comprehensive solution of the Afghan issue.

The president said the outcome of the shura reflects the importance attached by the mujahidin to a political settlement as well as the opinion of the majority of the

Afghan people. Ishaq Khan expressed the hope that the Iran-based Afghan mujahidin groups will take part in the interim administration, on which there was consensus at the shura.

Bhutto Reportedly Orders 40 Officers To Retire

BK2602130889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, is reported to have ordered the retirement of more than 40 senior Army officers loyal to the late General Ziaul Haq. PTI, quoting a SUNDAY TIMES dispatch from London, reports that Mrs Bhutto also curtailed the powers of the main intelligence agency in a bid to break its links with the political parties.

It is reported that the Army retirements have the support of the services chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and is considered the most important decision taken by Ms Benazir Bhutto during her 3 month tenure.

Gen Beg, who became chief of staff after President Ziaul Haq's death, has consistently pledged to leave politics to the politicians.